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Editor Clive Branson

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Anglers Mail Archives

Anglers News Archives

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## **Dear fellow Anglers and Matchmen**

I am thrilled to announce the March 2024 edition of my Angling News and Match Fishing News magazine. This is now the 4th edition since I relaunched early this year. (Checkout the earlier editions on [tinyurl.com/clivebranson](https://tinyurl.com/clivebranson))

## **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](https://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!

***Clive Branson***

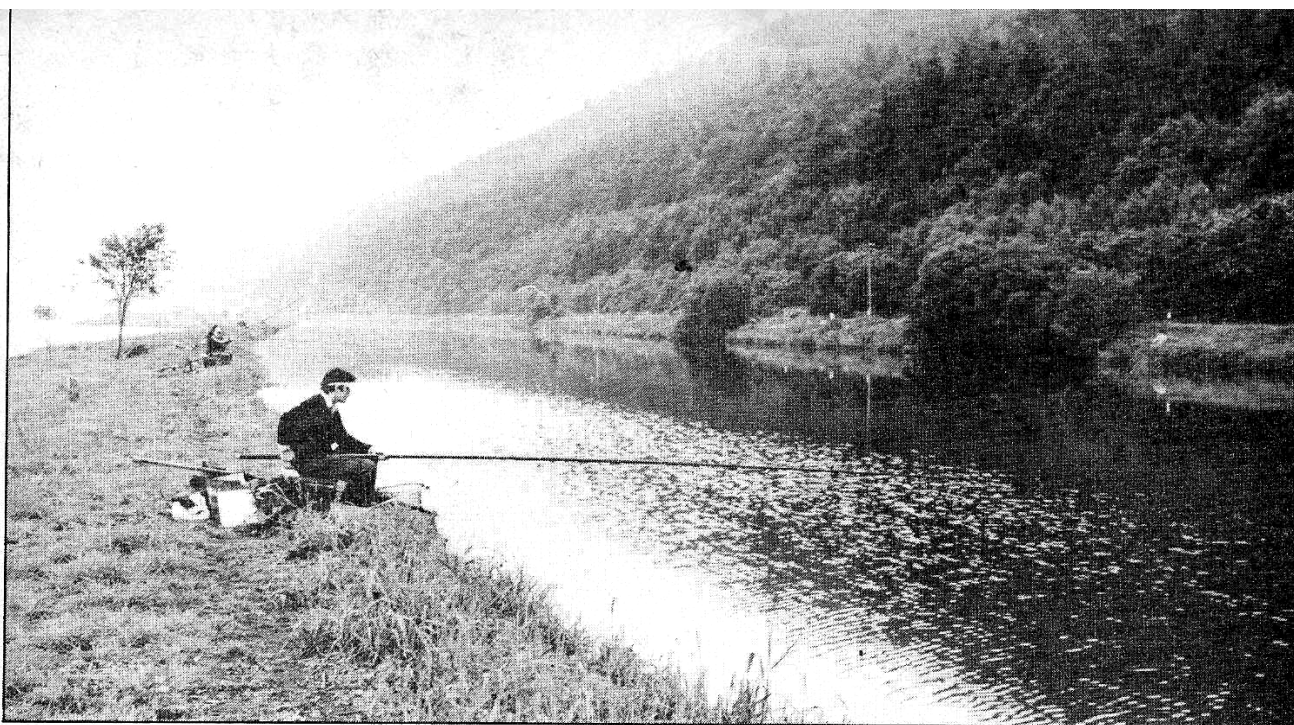
*Angling News and Match Fishing News*





Greetings and Welcome to my monthly blog.

No Vlogs this month But a Blast from The Past The Welsh Team of 1982



Pole-fishing on the Newry Canal.

## Cinderellas of the big match

### David Houghton with the Welsh World Championship team

**M**ediaeval Welsh folklore abounds with tales of heroes who leap on to bubbles without bursting them, and of missionary saints who sail the seas on leaves, so it was a relief to find the anglers who will represent Wales in next month's World Championship are normal men!

The team was off to Northern Ireland for a weekend practice-session on the Newry Canal, and I went along to get a preview of the venue and to see what goes on behind the scenes when a team prepares itself. They had been on a previous trip and were now equipped with tackle and bait to overcome the difficulties encountered in early May. The Newry Canal is an unusual fishery and well described by Gordon Williams in the July issue of *Coarse Fishing Monthly*.

John Mayers, the team manager – the lads said he got the job because he was the only one with a pair of pyjamas! – is delighted with the effort being made by the team of six, who are drawn from the whole of the Principality. "They are working very hard, giving up a lot of time and at much expense", said John, who also pointed out that the Welsh squad is the only group without sponsorship.

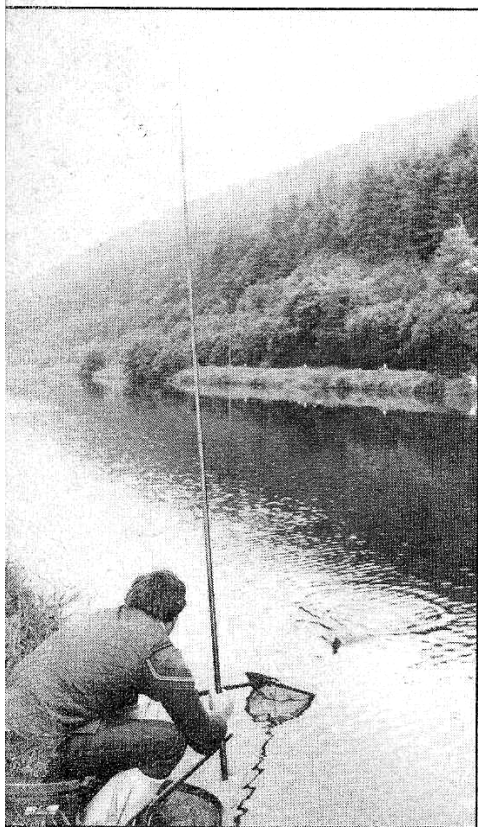
I was surprised to discover that nobody had come forward with support following the

result last year, when Wales came third in their first-ever World Championship. Even more staggering is the cost to each angler for the championship weekend; in total the Welshmen expect to fork out at least £250.

On top of that there is the added expense of every practice visit. With travel, accommodation, meals and bait, every time they spend two nights in Ireland it costs more than £100 each. Is it worth it?

John Phillips described his selection as "an honour". Neil Dibble said he was "privileged"; and there were similar remarks and general agreement from all six. It would be easy for me to set out to flatter them – after all I enjoyed their company for three days – but in all honesty I think they would be wasting their time going over again before September, when they are due to face the cream of the world's matchmen. The lads have established what they think will be the best methods and tackle, so their wisest course would be to choose a fishery with similar conditions and species nearer to home.

The team's ability to catch fish is not in doubt and they deserve to do well purely because of the amount of energy they have expended. Keith Bean summed up the situation best of all. "We are confident of returning good weights", he said, "But we are unable to measure how well anglers from the Continent will fare on the canal". The challenge, however, may come from closer to home. The Irish team see the 1982 World Championships as their chance to perform well and are fishing the match stretch four times a week. This fact is realised by John Mayers, who said: "They really do have an opportunity to win. We certainly would not begrudge them any sort



Clive Branson puts the net under a skimmer bream.





**The Welsh team (l to r): John Mayers, Clive Branson, Neil Dibble, Keith Bean, Ron Cousins, John Phillips and Phil Davies.**

of success, for they have gone out of their way to help us".

I don't think the Welsh team would begrudge any of the competitors success. They are above-average anglers – even on a venue strange to them – but more important I believe they are true sportsmen. These days there seems to be so much backstabbing and moaning within the match-angling world, but I found the Welsh boys refreshingly honest and thoroughly enjoying themselves.

### **The Wales team**

**John Mayers:** Team manager (45) a catering officer for a large company in his home town of Hereford. Match secretary to the Welsh Federation and the coaching and development officer.

**Keith Bean:** (38) a self-employed flooring contractor living in Kinnerton, near Chester. Chester AA National team, Deva winter league team, match wins last year included two home internationals. Fished 1981.

**Clive Branson:** (31) a tropical-fish-keeper who fished for Cardiff Nomads in the National. Was third individual in the team event of last year's championships.

**Ron Cousins:** (42) a businessman from Newport and a newcomer to the team. Fishes for Newport AA. Open wins include the Gloucester, Bathampton and Exeter events.

**Phil Davies** (30) a fitter from Wrexham and a member of the Llay National team. Fished last year. Only a couple of small wins last season but collected over £700 in placings.

**Neil Dibble:** (20) a new face in the team. A carpenter from Cwmbran. Fished for Cardiff Nomads in the National. His open wins include the Belmont series on the Wye, during which he took a record (for the river) 23lb of bleak on pole tackle.

**John Phillips:** (27) a loss-adjuster from Caerphilly. First time in team. Fished for Cardiff Nomads in National. Match wins include Hereford, Bathampton Opens.

All six will take part in the World Championships on the Newry Canal and whichever one does not take part in the five-man team event will fish in the individual match on day two.

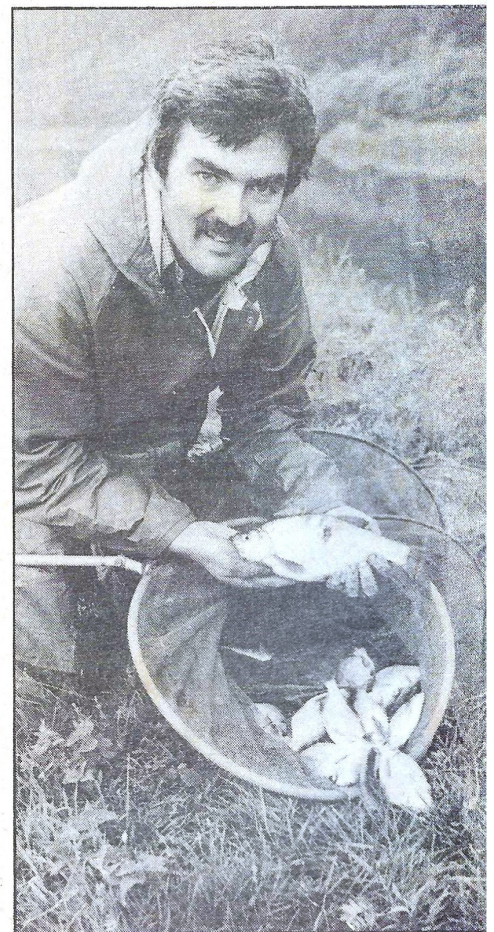
The Newry Canal is perfect for the pole and bloodworm tactics used by Continental aces, and even England will have a hard time keeping up with them. A major problem for this year's World Championships, on September 4 and 5, is obtaining a fresh supply of bait. I suspect most teams will make arrangements for bloodworm to be flown in on the morning of the match because it is very difficult to locate in Ireland. There is talk that members of the English squad have found a local water containing bloodworm, but a member of the Irish team told me that while he had an endless supply of jokers he was unable to find enough of the bigger worms.

As the proverb goes: "Fortune favours the brave". And if I were taking part and not capable of matching the speed and efficiency of men who have used bloodworm since childhood, I would be looking for another method.

I am not a world-class matchman, but one thing obvious is the need to commit yourself to one method, for the match is only three hours long and does not permit a major change of approach after an hour of the start.

Bearing in mind the fact that the canal holds a massive head of small bream and roach, I would choose a method with which I am familiar, rather than try to match the bloodworm men. The pole is obviously essential, but I would be seriously looking at the suitability of gozzers with squatts and groundbait.

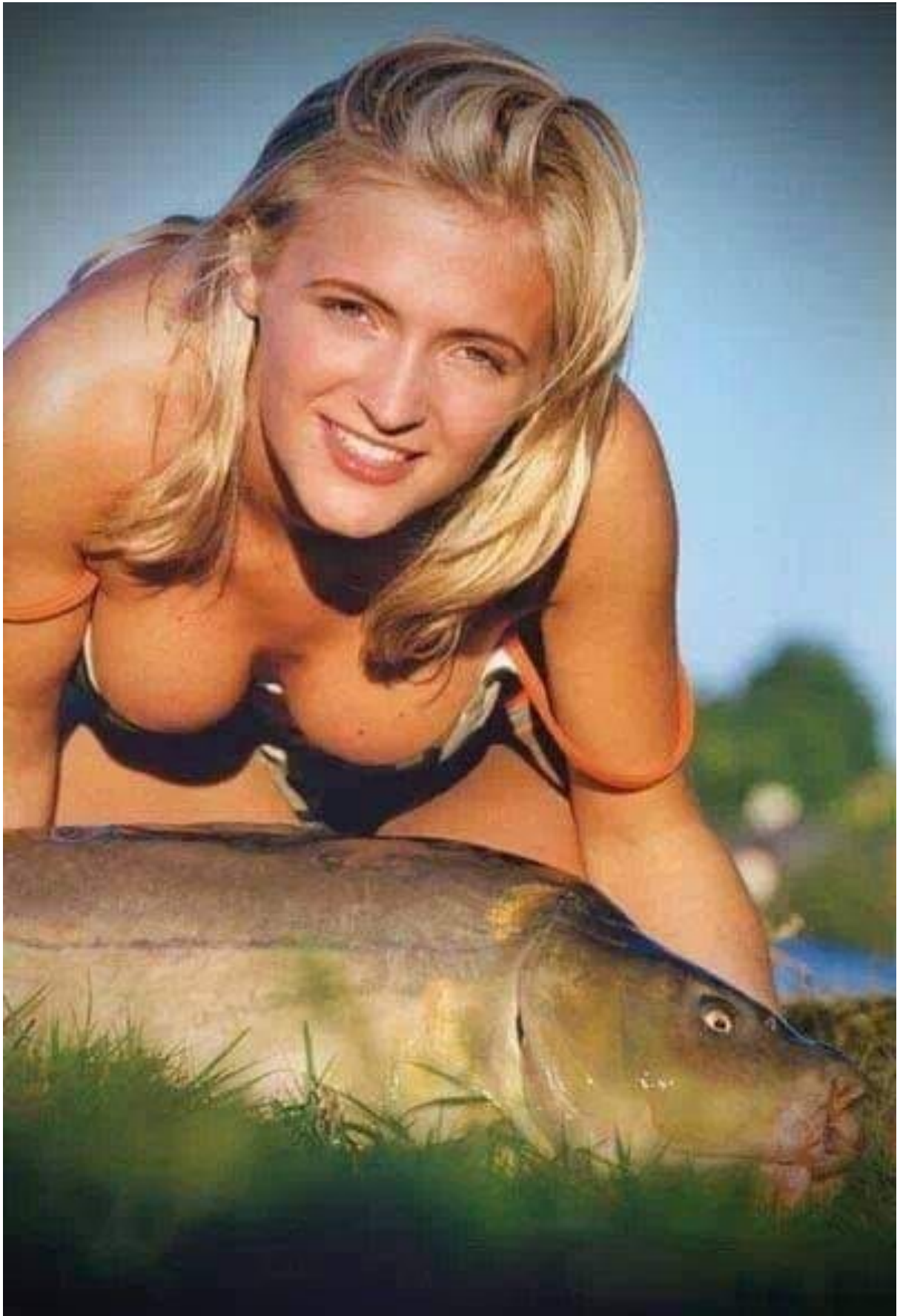
Certainly the event will prove most interesting and spectators should find the visit worthwhile. Anyone going to Ireland for the match should equip themselves with a pair of binoculars for a close-up of the action from the far side of the canal.



**John Phillips with his three-hour catch from the Newry Canal.**



## April Calendar Girl



# BREAKING NEWS

## Water companies in England face outrage over record sewage discharges

**Sewage being discharged into a brook from a nearby treatment works run by Thames Water in April 2023 after heavy rainfall.**



Water companies in England have faced a barrage of criticism as data revealed raw sewage was discharged for more than 3.6m hours into rivers and seas last year in a 105% increase on the previous 12 months.

Stratford on Avon March / April 20214

The scale of the discharges of untreated waste made 2023 the worst year for storm water pollution. Early data seen by the Guardian put the scale of discharges at more than 4m hours, but officials said the figures were an early estimate.

The Liberal Democrat leader, Ed Davey, said the scandal of raw sewage pouring into waterways should be declared a national environmental emergency. He called on the government to convene an urgent meeting of the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (Sage) to look at the impact of sewage pollution on people's health.

*Total discharges from the 14,000 storm overflows owned by English water companies that release untreated sewage into rivers and coastal waters increased by 54% to 464,056, according to data submitted to the Environment Agency by the industry.*

*Outfall into a river*

*4m hours of raw sewage discharges in England in 2023, data expected to show*

*Read more*

*Senior industry figures highlighted the heavy rainfall over the autumn and winter that put huge pressure on the sewerage system. But storm overflows are supposed to cope with heavy rainfall and only be used in exceptional circumstances, like major storm events. Climate change has long been predicted to bring higher rainfall levels.*

*One senior executive said: "We have wasted 15 years, we have not been investing enough."*

*Continue next page*

The data on discharges from storm overflows reveals the duration and the number of discharges from individual overflows across the network in England. The 3.6m-plus hours of raw sewage and rainwater discharged over the year includes huge spikes in some outflows. Forty per cent of South West Water outflows discharged raw sewage more than 40 times, while nearly a third of United Utilities outflows and 23% owned by Yorkshire Water discharged 60 times or more.

Any outflow that has more than 60 discharges a year should prompt an Environment Agency investigation.

As well as total discharges soaring from just over 301,000 in 2022, the average discharge per storm overflow has increased to 33, an increase of more than 43.7%. Some companies had much higher average spills per outflow, with South West Water averaging 43 per outflow and United Utilities 45.

Some of the highest rises in the hours of raw sewage pouring into rivers were by Anglian Water, with a 205% increase to 273,163 hours, Wessex Water a 186% increase to 372,341 hours, Thames Water a 163% increase to 196,414 hours, and Northumbrian Water a 160% increase to 280,029 hours.

Severn Trent discharged raw sewage into waterways for 440,446 hours, South West Water for 530,737 hours, an 82.5% increase, Southern Water for 317,285, a 116% rise, and United Utilities for 656,014 hours, a 54% increase.

Thames Water was responsible for the biggest increase in the number of discharges, with its overflows dumping on 16,990 occasions, a 112% increase on 2022.

A Guardian analysis of the data revealed the River Irwell and its tributary, the Croal, which flows through to Salford and Manchester, had the highest levels of sewage spills. Nearby storm overflows spilled just under 12,000 times in 2023, or 95 spills per mile of water, the highest rate of all rivers in England.

Second worst in England was the River Darwen, near Blackburn and Preston, where there were more than 3,000 sewage spills from nearby overflows in 2023 – equivalent to 83 spills per mile. Just one river in the south of England features in the worst 10: the River Avon, as it makes its way through Bath and Bristol. This urban section of the river had 6,573 sewage spills in 2023, or 74 spills per mile, making it the third most polluted in England.

Also top of the list for sewage spills was the River Calder near Huddersfield, the Aire near Bradford and the lower section of the Tyne around Newcastle and Sunderland, the Guardian's analysis of Environment Agency data found.

Criticism was not reserved for the industry. The government's much vaunted plan to tackle raw sewage pollution gives water companies a deadline of 2035 to reduce the amount of sewage flowing into bathing water and areas of ecological importance, but discharges would continue being released into other waterways until 2050, at a time when the climate crisis is increasing rainfall intensity and frequency, putting more strain on the sewerage system.

Davey said the scandal had to be treated as an environmental national emergency. He said: "Only by treating the sewage scandal with the urgency it demands can we save our rivers and beaches for future generations to enjoy. Rishi Sunak and the Conservative party have failed to listen and as a result sewage spills are increasing, our precious countryside is being destroyed and swimmers are falling sick."

The record sewage discharges were revealed as a major investigation into illegal sewage dumping by the regulator Ofwat into more than 2,000 treatment plants was nearing its conclusion. The Environment Agency is running a parallel criminal inquiry into illegal sewage dumping by companies.

Storm overflows are supposed to be used only in extreme weather but for many years they have been used routinely, discharging raw sewage even on dry days in some cases. The academic Peter Hammond has shown how water companies are routinely using storm overflow discharges in their water management.

Campaigners turned their ire on the industry as the scale of the discharges was published. Ash Smith, who has investigated sewage pollution in the River Windrush for several years, said: "Water companies will blame the weather but it's very clear from the data analysis done by Prof Peter Hammond that many sewage-dumping – we refuse to call this spilling – events are illegal either because sewage works simply don't treat the amount they are required to or they do it in dry conditions. "This is the information that needs to be made public along with volume, not just hours." Only two water companies, Southern and Thames Water, publish real-time data on raw sewage releases from outflows. Smith said greater transparency was needed. "How the other companies have been allowed to get away with keeping easily provided data public is a mystery. It is compounded by the secretary of state's silence on getting them to reveal what will undoubtedly be a scandalous state of affairs."

The shadow environment secretary, Steve Reed, said the government should immediately impose his plan for a ban on bonuses for water company executives. "Despite being responsible for this illegal behaviour, water company bosses have brazenly awarded themselves over £25m in bonuses and incentives since the last election," said Reed. Labour has not committed to any restructuring of the privatised water industry, even as Thames Water, which is struggling with debts of more than £14bn, is facing being taken into special administration. The Liberal Democrats are calling for Thames, the biggest of the privatised companies, to be put into special administration and turned into a public benefit company.

The Environment Agency director of water, Helen Wakeham, appeared to play down the scale of the increased pollution, saying it was not surprising that the discharges had increased. "We are pleased to see record investment from the water sector, but we know it will take time for this to be reflected in spill data – it is a complex issue that won't be solved overnight." The water minister, Robbie Moore, said: "Today's data shows water companies must go further and faster to tackle storm overflows and clean up our precious waterways. We will be ensuring the Environment Agency closely scrutinise these findings and take enforcement action where necessary." The revelation of the scale of releases into waterways comes as rivers in England are at crisis point, suffering from a toxic cocktail of raw and treated sewage pollution, chemical toxins and agricultural runoff.

In the last few weeks, ministers have engaged in a flurry of announcements in anticipation of the shocking data on record sewage spills. These included an announcement of a £180m plan to fast-track action on sewage discharges, in the face of criticism not enough is being done.

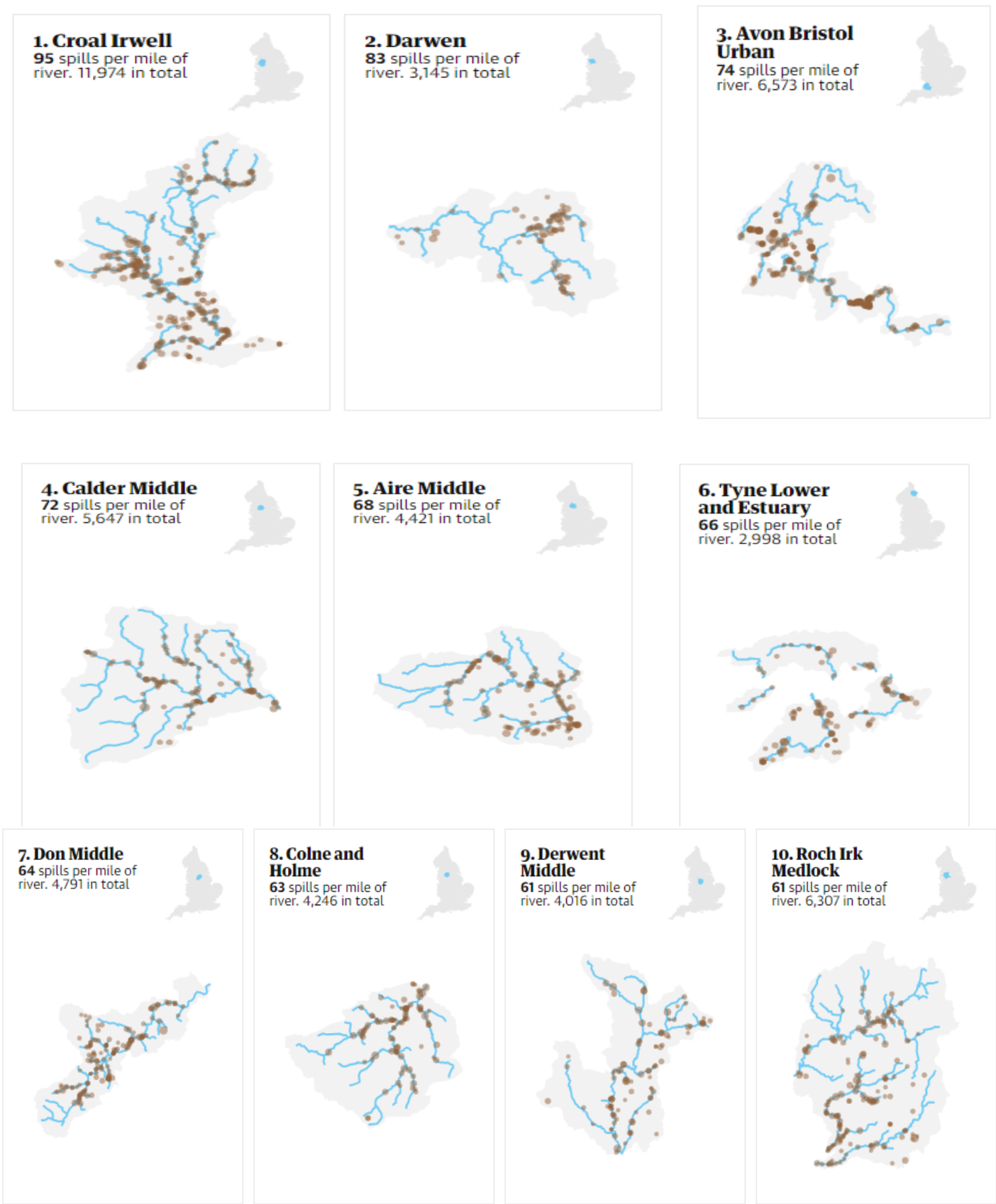
The industry is planning a record £96bn to the end of the decade to tackle sewage discharges, leaks and the impending water supply crisis but has been criticised for passing on the costs to customers for investment that should have been carried out years ago. Water UK, which represents the industry, said: "These results are unacceptable and demonstrate exactly why we urgently need regulatory approval to upgrade our system so it can better cope with the weather. We have a plan to sort this out by tripling investment which will cut spills by 40% by 2030 – more than double the government's target."

Ofwat has to decide whether to allow companies to increase water bills to pay for the investment. Water UK said the investment was vital and Ofwat must give the industry the green light to get on with it.



# The rivers with the most sewage spills in 2023

English rivers with the most sewage spills per mile in their catchment areas last year.



BBC

RADIO LINCOLNSHIRE

"It wouldn't take a lot to wipe out  
the complete population"

Dave Webb, UK Wild Otter Trust

Listen on  **SOUNDS**



BBC Lincolnshire

20 March at 06:25 · 



Wildlife experts say recent weather has badly affected Lincolnshire's otters.

Learn more: <https://bbc.in/3TGOBRr>

### Top Comment

What devastation they have caused all over the country to our lakes and rivers.

Not to mention the fisheries they have put out of business. And there protected ! . t's a shambles, I'd love to meet the people who re- introduced them and tell them what I can't say on here.

# Des Ship

## Match Reports

2nd March

Ivy house today for a fish south qualifier. we're do I start but the weather, seriously what is going on, got 30 minutes up the M5 and it's was snowing and by the time I got on the M4 there was 3 inch plus on the road motorway, thankfully the snow fizzled out before the fishery but the water from the last night rain on the roads and in the fields was unreal. Anyway

on to the match, drew a good area on willow lake peg 34 but the wind was blowing straight at me and it was bloody freezing, fed 4 areas and started short over a small amount of bait, caught a skimmer and some really good stamp roach before going long, this was great fishing on worms catching quality roach and thought this is game on as you need to win the day to qualify, unfortunately this died after around 40 minutes so fast and left me struggling to catch with the wind and tow messing things up. With the wind dropping late on I managed to catch some skimmers over a possible ground bait line and finished with 21lb 4 that was 5 th in the match but well off Dave Wilmot's winning 30lb from the match lake, well done to Adam to my right coming 2nd with 26lb and Tommy on 3rd with 22lb. great fishing considering the weather today and I'm sure I would of had a proper good chance if we wouldn't of had that storm last night



Shearwater today for the outlaw pro open. Sold out again and it was dry at last. 0 degrees on getting to the lake and bright skies so it was definitely going to be different from a couple of weeks ago. got Steve to draw for me as I run the matches and he pulled peg 13 that the first peg on the dam wall [redacted], fishing for the section really as it's proper deep but the sun was out and flat calm. Fed two long lines again and my first bite was a 9lb carp and then a bream [redacted], Dave to my right then had a good carp and a little later caught another. in the first 2 hours I caught another 4 bream until it just died, there was bubbles coming up but couldn't get bites, tried a traditional feeder for nothing either. it was a close match on the wall but luckily have a good run late of 5 big bream that won me the dam wall section with 51lb, caught at 80 mtr late and the 12.6 distance master 80 gram was superb. crazy how the brea m move about on here as we're two weeks ago the road bank low numbers were mega, this week it was rock hard but that big water winter fishing. Big well done to Clayton winning with 94lb of bream, Steve venn second with 86lb, Leicester 3 rd with 85lb and well done to the section winners. Everything on a yellow 8 mm bandum banoffee using a 14 KKM tied to 0.17 power



9th March

Early start to Stafford Moore today on the practice match for the coming festival that start Monday. All on the beautiful tanners lake and I drew peg 5 that's a lovely peg, once again the wind was left to right and slightly at me [REDACTED]. It was a strong freezing easterly that was definitely going to make it difficult. Fed 11 mtr max in the conditions and a couple of short lines. Caught a couple of skimmers on the feeder before looking on the pole, first few put ins produced some small skimmers to 4oz but it literally died to nothing very quickly, tried a few different things but caught most of my 21 lb on a small hexmesh feeder in the last 2 hours, this got me 2 nd on the day behind my nephew Ryan that had 23 lb. Glad I went today as I learnt a bit as it's going to be a tricky week with the very heavy coloured water.



11th March

First day of the Stafford Moore silver fish festival. Drew peg 4 on pines lake, nice area and with the weather nice I was hoping for a good day. After starting short for one tiny roach I was soon out on the long pole, caught some skimmers and then a few carrassio over ground bait and worms. Left my long lines 16 mtr to the far bank until as long as I could but when I did I had nice little run until it died, the last hour I struggled but finished with 33 lb that won my section and lake, great start and hope it continues tomorrow. Big well done to the other section winners today. Keep you informed as I go through the week, ground bait today was pro thatcher's green and supercrush green mixed 50/5

12th March

Second day here at Stafford Moore. My rotation was woodpecker lake and I drew peg 5 that I was happy with as the gale force wind was off my back. After catching a few small fish short I was out on my long pole at 13 mtr, took some time but started catching decent skimmers and to be honest this was my match, had a beautiful days fishing rotating lines with plenty of ground bait ( pro thatchers green and supercrush green ) mixed 50/50 again, finished with 29lb that got me second in the section. Well done to steve kedge winning with 38lb of peg 11. Tanners lake tomorrow and can't wait



13th March

3 day Stafford Moore silver festival. My turn on the lovely tanners lake, drew peg 14 that's not really we're I wanted to be but at least again the wind was ok. Caught one big roach and a good skimmer on the feeder until I went on the long pole, caught skimmers quite steady and was doing ok what I could see. Had a lovely days fishing again and again caught everything over the same mix as yesterday, finished with 32lb that just scraped second getting beat by Ryan on carrisio central peg 16, no chance beating his 51lb feeder caught, beat Ben on 17 by 1lb so I would of took that at the start. Fed more bait today to keep catching and enjoyed it massively. Two open draws over the next two days so fingers crossed for a couple of nice draws.



14th March

4th day here at the stunning Stafford Moore. Open draw today and pulled out peg 19 tanners lake, with the wind sensible and a good area for the pole. After fishing the feeder for the first 1/2 hour for nothing I was straight out on the long pole, once again I caught skimmers steady and they were a good stamp, mid match I started catching on my short line with casters over ground bait. Once again I had a mega days fishing and finished with 51lb that won my my lake, need a win tomorrow to have chance of winning

the 5th and final day of the Stafford Moore silverfish festival. Was hopping for a nice section peg but was gutted to draw peg 6 on woodpecker to be honest, not only is it only set along way back from the pegs either side and the section has some lovely pegs. Needed a section win to have a chance of moving up the leader board from second and possibly winning. Nothing on the feeder at the start so was soon out on the long pole but it was really slow with only a few small fish, looking around it was definitely not going to fish like the previous days mega fishing, after around 1.5 hours it started to get better catching some decent skimmers over ground bait. I did notice that peg 11 on the opposite side of the lake was catching carissio well, this peg cost me in the week and sort of knew the writing was probably on the wall, had a nice run mid match catching some quality fish on worms and topping up positively, got carped out in the last 45 minutes and finished with 23lb that was 3 rd in the section getting beat by 1lb from the next peg and John fuidge on peg 11 with 42lb, great days fishing again. At the results I finished 4 th with 5 points and just 1 oz from 3rd, massive well done to my nephew Ryan fishing brilliantly all week and winning with a perfect 4 point score, Geoff valance coming 2nd and John fuidge on the 3rd spot. Had a fantastic week relentlessly laughing with my brother Vince, Ryan, Ricky mills and Rich Reynolds, for me that's the best part of this festival and it's a Brucey bonus that the fishing was brilliant! For those that are interested, the groundbait choice started with supercrush green & pro thatchers green, but as the week progressed I began to mix 25% of supercrush expander into it as I tried it out and found it helped create more of a cloud and felt it pulled in the carrasio's a little bit more. Ryan used pro thatchers and F1. Thanks to Joanne and Paul, the fishery looked amazing as normal and can't wait for next year to do it all over again!





## Tactical Briefing

### EMMOTLAND PONDS, NORTH FRODINGHAM, EAST YORKSHIRE

**DESCRIPTION.** Set in the delightful Yorkshire Wolds, specimen and pleasure fishing is available at this privately owned fishery. Pond 1 has carp to 46 lb and cats to 20 lb. Pond 2 for catfish to 60 lb, carp to 36 lb and pike to 20 lb. Pond 3 has carp to 30 lb and catfish to 20 lb. There are pike in 1 and 3. Pond 4 has carp to 12 lb, bream to 6 lb, tench to 5 lb plus some good numbers of roach, ide, barbel, perch, chub and crucians.

**TACTICS.** On the specimen waters leger hair-rigged boilies, large halibut pellets, meat, Peperami or plain and simple bunches of maggot for the carp, the catfish will also accept boilies and large pellets. On Pond 4 float fish soft pellet, corn, maggot, caster or chopped worm, over little but often loose feed, for mixed catches.

**GOOD SWIMS.** Being former gravel workings, fish to the gravel bars on the specimen waters for the carp.

**TICKETS.** On Pond 4 it's £5 for one rod or £7 for two, permits available from the shop before fishing, if closed on the bank; fishing is 7am to dusk on this one. It's pre-booking only on the three specimen ponds, a 24-hour permit is £20. Enquire about longer stays or a limited amount of winter only permits. Toilets, showers, food, all on-site. Best for disabled to ring. No keepnets. Bookings and enquiries: 01262 488226. North East byelaws. Open all year.

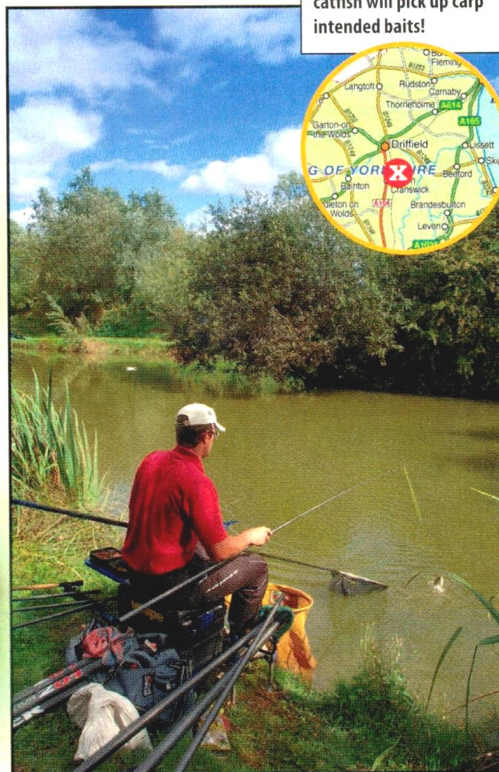
#### LOCAL TACKLE SHOP.

On-site, YO25 8JS.

Tel: 01262 488226.

**LOCATION.** From Driffield take the B1249 to North Frodingham. As you enter the outskirts of North Frodingham turn right opposite the church and follow this down to the fishery.

**SAT NAV.** YO25 8JS.



## TOP TIP

Make sure you've got strong gear on as the catfish will pick up carp intended baits!



## Tactical Briefing

### GLASSON DOCK, GLASSON ARM, GLASSON, LANCASHIRE

**DESCRIPTION.** Owned by British Waterways the basin, off the Glasson Arm, off the Lancaster Canal, is also known as the Glasson Basin Marina. The venue is mainly pike fished, it recently produced a 20-pounder. There are plenty of fish to low double-figures. The venue also contains skimmers, roach and perch but they are seldom fished for.

**TACTICS.** Float or leger a frozen sea deadbait for the pike, a whole fish or a fillet, head or tail. If there's no response from pike to sea deads it is well worth trying lures as some days the fish will

prefer to chase and strike at a moving target. Look for diving birds to track down the food fish shoals and fish these areas.

**GOOD SWIMS.** Anywhere where you can spot any fish activity!

**TICKETS.** You need a yearly 'Waterways Wanderers' permit for this venue. They are priced at £20 or £10 to members of affiliated clubs. Toilets and food outlets nearby. Fishing dawn until dusk only. Memberships from: 07713 682379 or 01829 732748. North West byelaws. Open all year.

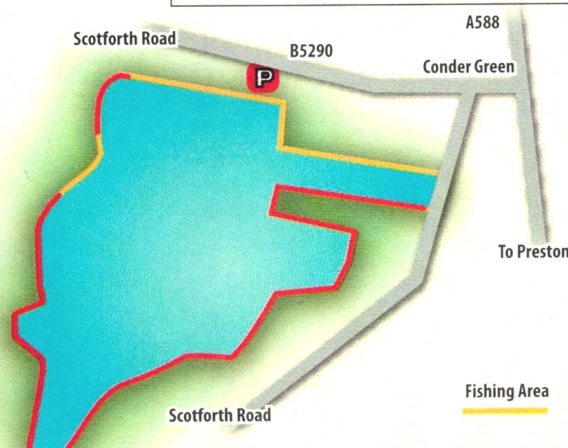
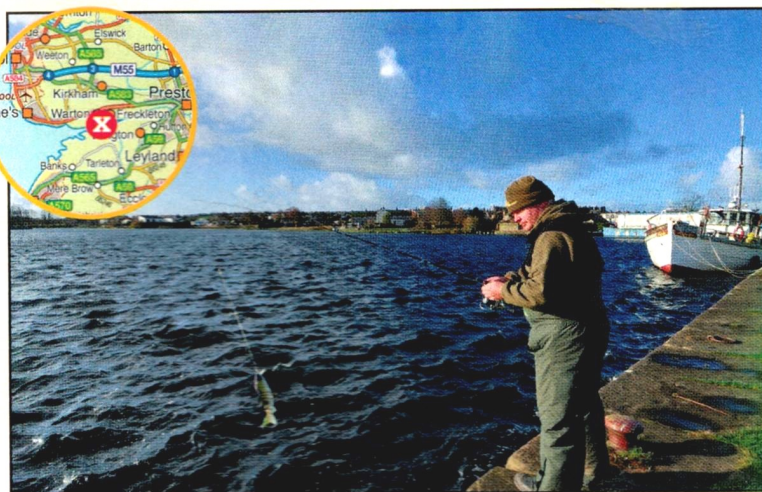
**LOCAL TACKLE SHOP.** Gerry's of Morecambe, LA3 1RQ. Tel: 01524 422146.

**LOCATION.** From the north side of Preston come off the M6 at J32 onto M55. At J1 on M55 pick up the A6 heading north. Keep on A6 and take B5272 to Cockerham. Turn right here onto A588 and when you reach Conder Green turn left onto B5290 and follow this (Scotforth Road) to fishery.

**SAT NAV.** LA2 0AW.

## TOP TIP

Try roving with lures to cover a lot of water to search the fish out. They could be shoaled up near or on the shallows for spawning at the moment.





## Tactical Briefing

### THORPE LEA FISHERY, THORPE, SURREY

**DESCRIPTION.** This extraordinary privately owned fishery offers multiple carp sport of the highest order. Spanning 18 acres, depths run to 22 ft. There are carp here of all sizes, the best to date is 34 lb. There's a high average – upper double-figures, some anglers are also targeting perch to 4 lb 8 oz.

**TACTICS.** For multiple 'runs' most of the regular anglers tend to fish smaller baits than you would expect. Leger a hair-rigged 10-12 mm popped-up boilie, artificial corn or pellets over small PVA bagged small pellets introduced every half hour

or so. In warmer conditions, especially evenings, floating crust, dog biscuit or even fly fishing scores. For these big perch try float or maggot feeder with two or three coloured maggots on the hook.

**GOOD SWIMS.** Anywhere to the sides of the islands or indeed the open water.

**TICKETS.** Adults £12, OAPs and under-16s £9. 24-hour permits are £24. Under-18s must be adult accompanied. Permits from the office on the way in. Fishing 6.30am to dusk on a day permit. Disabled access. Barbed hooks only. Unhooking

mats and large landing nets essential. No keepnets. Weather permitting, a buggy service is available for disabled anglers. Food available. Enquiries: 07934 000559. Thames byelaws. Open all year.

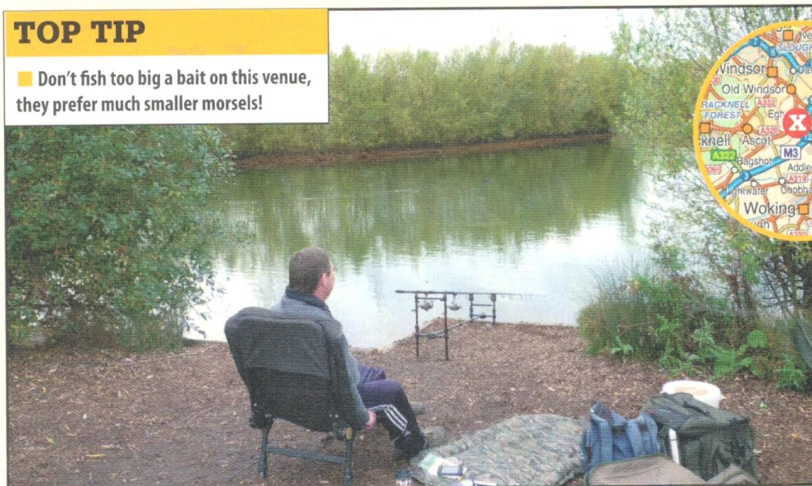
**LOCAL TACKLE SHOP.** On-site, TW20 8PG. Tel: 07934 000559.

**LOCATION.** From J12, M25 or J2, M3 and pick up the B388 Thorpe Lea Road. Keep on this road and the fishery is well signed on your left. Alternatively leave M25 J13 and again head for the B388 Thorpe Lea Road. Go down here and turn right at the fishery sign.

**SAT NAV.** TW20 8PG.

#### TOP TIP

Don't fish too big a bait on this venue, they prefer much smaller morsels!



## Tactical Briefing

### MARSWORTH RESERVOIR, MARSWORTH, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

**DESCRIPTION.** Owned by British Waterways and bailiffed by the local Tring Anglers this 24-acre working reservoir has depths to 15 ft with a very flat bed. It offers unsurpassable bream sport with the odd sample to 10 lb but mainly in the 5-6 lb bracket, multiple catches are well on the cards. Marsworth also houses catfish to 56 lb, a good head of carp to 31 lb, pike to 23 lb, tench to 9 lb, perch to 3 lb and the roach can top 2 lb.

**TACTICS.** Bream show to a traditional groundbait feeder, use a decent sized one, with a top quality cereal or fishmeal groundbait. On the hook try corn, pellet, small boilies or redworm tipped with a maggot or a caster. Leger hair-rigged boilies or

large halibut pellets for the carp. While odd catfish do show to carp tactics they can be targeted on the usual catfish methods. Try for tench to float fished corn or worm, the areas by the reeds are advised. Leger a sea deadbait for winter pike.

**GOOD SWIMS.** Anywhere with a ripple on it for bream.

**TICKETS.** Day tickets are: adults £6, OAPs, registered disabled, under-16s and after 5pm sessions £4. Day permits apply from dawn until dusk and are available on the bank. Season permits are: days £120 across the board, days and nights £200 with concessions. All enquiries: 07796 178313. No keepnets. Food outlets nearby.

Thames byelaws. Open all year. Check out: [www.tringanglers.org.uk](http://www.tringanglers.org.uk)

**LOCAL TACKLE SHOP.** Chiltern Tackle, Tring, HP23 4BQ. Tel: 01442 825257.

**LOCATION.** Come off the A41 east of Aylesbury onto the B489 heading towards Ivinghoe. Pass the Angler's Retreat pub on your left and turn right into the car park.

**SAT NAV.** HP23 4LJ (nearby Angler's Retreat).

#### TOP TIP

For some huge bream catches fish straight into the wind, bream do not like calm conditions at Marsworth.





## Tactical Briefing

### FINLAKE HOLIDAY PARK, CHUDLEIGH, DEVON

**DESCRIPTION.** Combine your holiday with fishing at this 130-acre countryside Holiday Park or just fish either of the two pools on a conventional day permit. All sorts of accommodation are available at this countryside retreat. Stocks include some very decent tench to 5 lb, crucian carp nudging the 3 lb mark plus a good head of roach and rudd.

**TACTICS.** Float fishing scores well at Finlake with the better tench, crucian carp and roach falling to

small pieces of luncheon meat or possibly better, banded pellet. Waggler fish bread flake, punched bread or paste for the quality crucian carp. For plenty of roach and rudd float fishing maggot is as good as any bait.

**GOOD SWIMS.** You can catch all round these two lakes.

**TICKETS.** £10 for the day; permits from Reception before fishing. Fishing 9am to dusk only. Barbless

hooks only. Toilets on-site. Food available. Tel: 01626 853833. South West byelaws. Open all year.

**LOCAL TACKLE SHOP.** Tackle Trader, Newton Abbot, TQ12 2DA. Tel: 01626 331613.

**LOCATION.** Leave Exeter heading south on the A38. Come off at the Chudleigh/Knighton turn-off and you will pick up the tourist signs for Finlake Holiday Park.

**SAT NAV.** TQ13 0EJ.

#### TOP TIP

I keep baits to the ones mentioned, the simpler the better!



To Chudleigh A38

Sign

To Chudleigh Knighton



## Tactical Briefing

### PORT ELIOT, ST. GERMANS, CORNWALL

**DESCRIPTION.** Plymouth DCAC control the fishing on this excellent, well stocked, two-acre estate lake. It's a mixed fishery with carp of all sizes to 24 lb, bream to 9 lb, tench to 5 lb, eels to 4 lb, crucians, perch, roach and rudd to 2 lb plus golden rudd to 1 lb 4 oz.

**TACTICS.** The bigger carp show to legered hair-rigged

boilies or two or three grains of corn. For mixed catches, including smaller carp, float fish soft pellet, corn, chopped worm or paste. Tench to float fished corn, use maggot or caster for healthy catches of silver fish. Conventional groundbait feeder with a good cereal mix with redworm tipped with a maggot or a caster for bream, alternatively use a fishmeal groundbait with pellet on the hook.

**GOOD SWIMS.** Those with lily pad beds or overhanging trees to fish too.

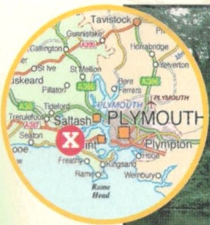
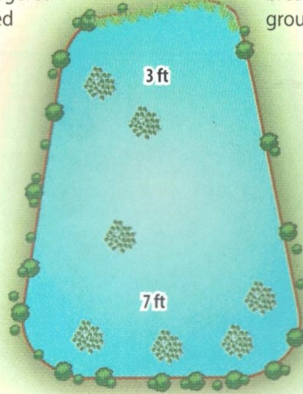
**TICKETS.** Members only. Plymouth and District Coarse AC membership cards cost: adults £42, OAPs £25, under-16s £5. Costs cover lots of other waters. A member can buy a Guest ticket and accompany them on this lake. Disabled access. Barbless hooks only. No fish of over 4 lb in keepnets. Food outlets nearby. Toilets. Tel: 01752 317329.

South West byelaws. Open all year.

**LOCAL TACKLE SHOP.** Clive's Tackle and Bait, Plymouth, PL4 0NQ. Tel: 01752 228940.

**LOCATION.** From Tideford on the A38 take the left turn onto the B3249 heading to St. Germans. As you enter St. Germans turn left just after the alms houses. Follow this through the estate, go over the cattle grid and the lake is on your left.

**SAT NAV.** PL12 5ND (nearby).



#### TOP TIP

Take a small variety of baits here as the shoals are prone to a change of diet now and again.



To Tideford

Estate Road

To St. Germans



## Tactical Briefing

### CROMWELL CARP FISHERY, CROMWELL, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

**DESCRIPTION.** Although this privately owned fishery is on the open market the venue remains open to fishing. Privately owned, the 18-acre challenging water is a job for the specimen minded. There are mirror carp running to 44 lb and a decent head of 30s, pike to 37 lb, catfish to 33 lb 3 oz, ghost carp topping 30 lb, common carp to 29 lb 15 oz, grass carp topping 20 lb and tench to 14 lb 6 oz. There's also a small 15-peg pleasure pool with all sorts of species including carp, tench, ide, rudd, roach and perch.

**TACTICS.** Current trends for the carp and maybe catfish are to leger hair-rigged CC Moore, Sticky

Bait bloodworm or Mainline Cell boilies over PVA bagged particles mixed in with a few freebies. Halibut pellets are another good bait as the weather warms up a touch. Winter pike (the season ends on March 31) to float or legered sea deadbaits or try lures. Float fish maggot, corn or soft pellet on the pleasure pool.

**GOOD SWIMS.** Scan the water for fish activity and target these areas, as different swims produce at different times of the year.

**TICKETS.** Specimen Lake day tickets: £12.50 (apply 6.30am to 8pm), 24-hours £25. Enquire about longer stays. Pleasure pool

day tickets are £7.50. Disabled access. Barbless hooks only. No keepnets. Food available, Toilets and shower facilities. All enquiries: 01636 822425. Midlands byelaws. Open all year.

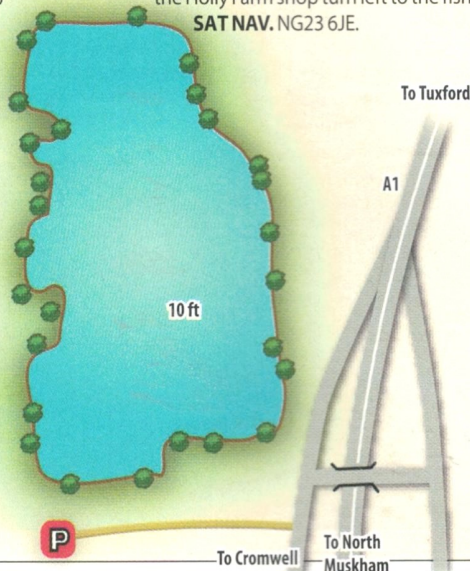
**LOCAL TACKLE SHOPS.** Climax Tackle, Dronfield, S18 1PP. Tel: 01246 412233 or 291155. Planet Carp, Nottingham, NG7 3PE. Tel: 0115 942 4941.

**LOCATION.** From Newark head north on the A1. Pass North Muskham and take the left turn to Cromwell. Keep on this road and when you reach the Holly Farm shop turn left to the fishery. **SAT NAV.** NG23 6JE.



#### TOP TIP

It's worth spending a lot of time looking around the specimen lake and talking to other anglers.



## Tactical Briefing

### MOON LAKE FISHERIES, TATTERSHALL, LINCOLNSHIRE

**DESCRIPTION.** Now extended to six lakes the two-acre original Moon Lake is home to carp to 22 lb, bream and tench to 6 lb, barbel and chub to 3 lb plus roach, rudd and others. Moat Lake has carp to 15 lb, then similar stocks as Moon Lake plus ide to 2 lb. The newer lakes on the site are Meadow with carp to 12 lb, Manor and Marsh both have carp to 15 lb, all these three lakes also have silver fish. The sixth lake, Mere, will be mainly carp, it is due to open soon. All in all there will be over 150 pegs target.

**TACTICS.** In the main the

carp respond well to float fished soft pellet or corn over small pellet feed. Silver fish sport to maggot or caster but be prepared to hook carp. Surface fishing is only permitted on Moon Lake - take advantage of this as it is deadly with crust or dog biscuit scoring well, especially in the evenings. Other baits to consider are chopped worm, paste and punched bread.

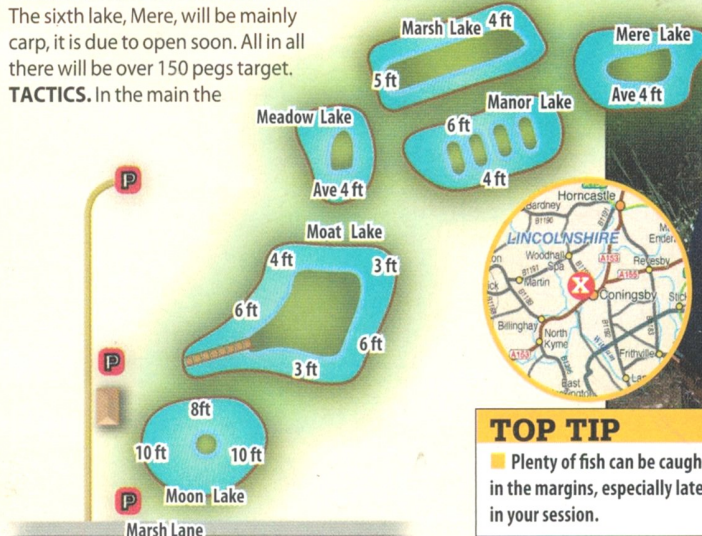
**GOOD SWIMS.** As it warms up, the shelves in every swim are worth targeting.

**TICKETS.** Adults £6 for one rod, OAPs and under-16s £5. Costs are for one rod, add £1 for a second rod. Permits on the bank. Fishing 7.30am to 7pm only. Disabled access. Barbless hooks only. No keepnets. Café on-site. Toilets. Enquiries: 01526 345377. Anglian byelaws. Open all year.

**LOCAL TACKLE SHOP.** Riverside Tackle, Tattershall Bridge, Lincolnshire, LN4 4JQ. Tel: 01526 344660.

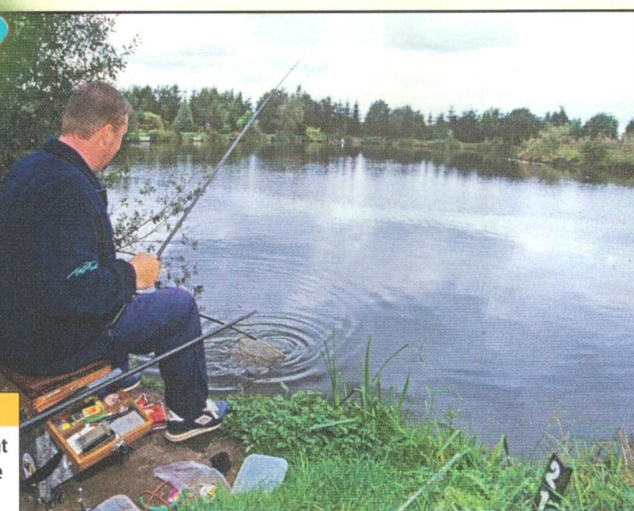
**LOCATION.** From Tattershall Market Square head towards Woodhall Spa. After one mile you will see Castle View. Turn left here, then immediately right into Marsh Lane. The fishery is at the bottom, on the right.

**SAT NAV.** LN4 4JR.



#### TOP TIP

Plenty of fish can be caught in the margins, especially late in your session.





## Tactical Briefing

### SHAWFIELDS LAKES, ASH, SURREY

**DESCRIPTION.** Farnborough DAS control the fishing on these two members only, feature filled lakes. The lakes have a very mixed fish content with carp topping out at 25 lb, pike to at least 20 lb, bream to 10 lb, tench to 8 lb, plenty of crucian carp to 2 lb 8 oz plus a large head of roach, perch and other species.

**TACTICS.** Leger hair-rigged boilies or large halibut pellets for the bigger carp. For bream you can either use a groundbait feeder or pole in the deeper water with pellet, maggot, caster, corn or worm for the bream. Plenty of silver fish action to float fished maggot or caster, hemp produces good roach catches in the summer. Crucian carp to poled 4 mm soft pellet. Winter pike to float or legered sea deadbaits, lures or spinners.

**GOOD SWIMS.** Anywhere near the lily pads or with an island to fish to.

**TICKETS.** Members only: adults £56, family tickets, add £20 for second adult and £10 for each under 16, 16-19s £30, OAPs and registered disabled £35, under-16s £24. There's a one off joining fee of £20 for new members. Members enquire about separate night fishing permits. Membership from [www.fadas.org](http://www.fadas.org) or contact Colin at Crowthorne Angling, 01344 777411. Barbless

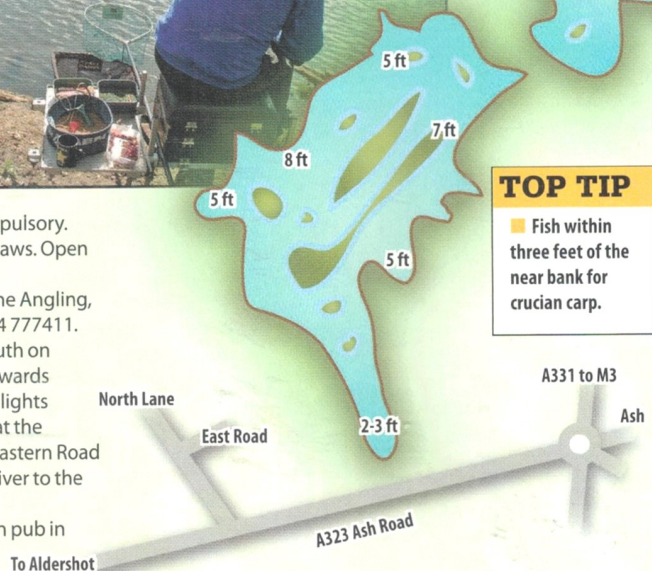


hooks only. Unhooking mats compulsory. Food outlets nearby. Thames byelaws. Open all Year.

**LOCAL TACKLE SHOP.** Crowthorne Angling, Crowthorne, RG45 7AW. Tel: 01344 777411.

**LOCATION.** From J4, M3 head south on the A331. At Ash take the A323 towards Aldershot. Turn right at the traffic lights into North Lane then right again at the roundabout (Carpet World) into Eastern Road and park at the end. Go over the river to the fishery.

**SAT NAV.** GU12 4TA (nearby Swan pub in North Lane).



#### TOP TIP

■ Fish within three feet of the near bank for crucian carp.

## Tactical Briefing

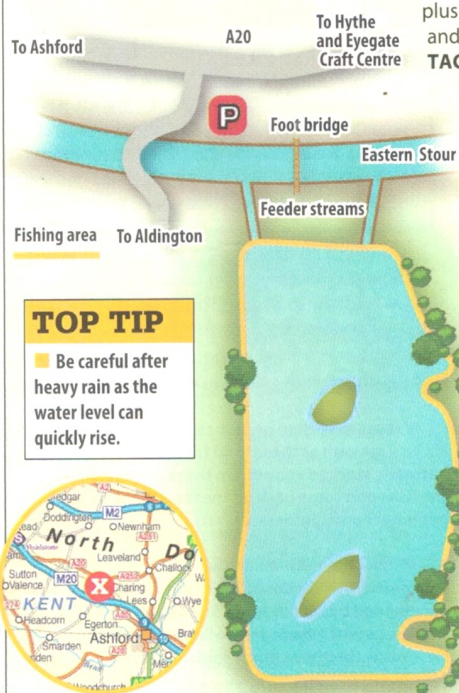
### ALDINGTON LAKE, ALDINGTON, KENT

**DESCRIPTION.** Maidstone Victory AS control the fishing on this six-acre lake, developed as a result of Ashford's flood relief scheme. The

fishing is improving all the time for good stocks of bream with individual samples to 7 lb, carp to 30 lb, some chub to 5 lb, eels to 5 lb, perch to 4 lb, roach to 1 lb 8 oz plus the occasional tench, pike and trout.

**TACTICS.** For catches of bream fish a conventional groundbait feeder with worm/maggot on the hook. It's well worth trying larger baits as the summer comes around. Leger grains of corn for the carp, surface fishing is well worth trying too. Waggler or pole fish maggot or caster for catches of silver fish. For these big perch try chopped worm with portions of worm on the hook. Eels to legered meat or fat lobworms.

**GOOD SWIMS.** Cast to the sides of



#### TOP TIP

■ Be careful after heavy rain as the water level can quickly rise.



the islands in search for bream.

**TICKETS.** Members only. Maidstone Victory AS fees are: adult £68, joint £102, OAP, registered disabled, intermediate 16-19 years £35, joint OAP £53, 12-15s £22, under-12s free, night permits £40, car park keys £5. A one off joining fee is £20, not applicable to 12-15s. Application forms from [www.maidstonevictory.co.uk](http://www.maidstonevictory.co.uk) or local tackle shops. Fishing dawn until dusk. No livebaiting, nuts, pulses or trout pellets. Contact: 01303 255221. Southern byelaws. Open all year.

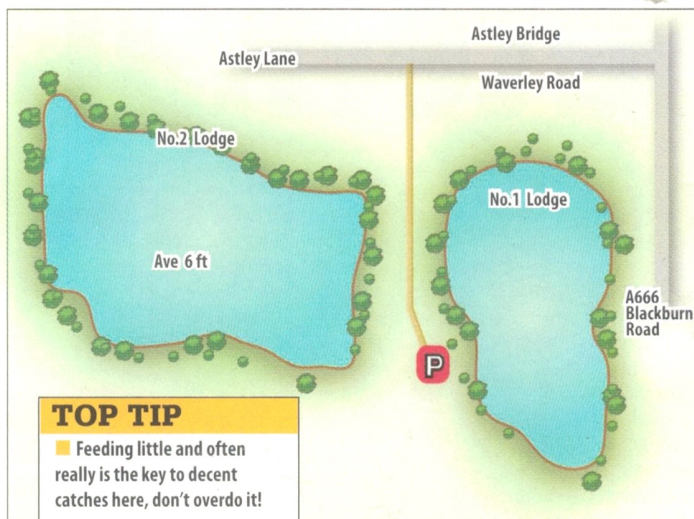
**LOCAL TACKLE SHOP.** Ashford Tackle Shop, Ashford, TN23 6LZ. Tel: 01233 630914.

**LOCATION.** From J10, M20 pick up the A20 Hythe Road towards Sellindge. At the crossroads turn right into Station Road, towards Aldington. Go over the M20, pass the Craft Centre and the rail bridge. As the road forks to the right there is a locked gate on the sharp bend on the left. Go through here to the car park and access the lake from here.

**SAT NAV.** The Craft Centre is not too far away, TN25 6SX.

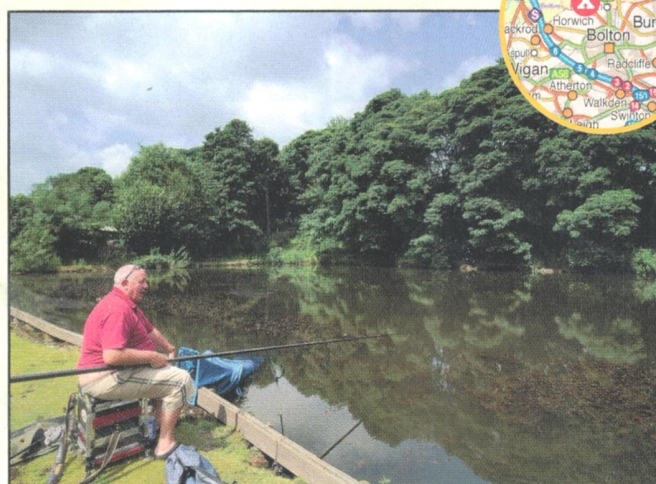


## Tactical Briefing



### TOP TIP

Feeding little and often really is the key to decent catches here, don't overdo it!



## MERTON LODGES, ASTLEY BRIDGE, BOLTON, LANCASHIRE

**DESCRIPTION.** Bolton DAA control the fishing on these two members only lodges. Lodge 1 has 30 pegs and depths to 8 ft while Lodge 2 has 22 pegs and is slightly shallower, running to about 6 ft. They contain good stocks of fish with tench to 6 lb, plenty of skimmers ceiling out at 2 lb, roach to 1 lb plus a handful of carp and a few jack pike.

**TACTICS.** These venues lend themselves ideally to float fishing. At this time of the year maggot, pinkie or punched bread will score for mixed

silver fish catches. As it warms up a bit try float fishing corn or caster for the tench, pellet may be worth trying too. In the warmer months healthy mixed catches fall to float fished caster fished over caster and hemp feed. It's beneficial to feed small amounts, every put in.

**GOOD SWIMS.** Look for the areas with a slight ripple on the surface.

**TICKETS.** Bolton AA year permits are £22 for seniors, OAPs and registered disabled £10, under-16s £5. These permits are excellent

value and cover many other venues. For more information call 01204 393726. Open dawn until dusk only. North West byelaws apply. Open all year.

**LOCAL TACKLE SHOP.** BAS Angling Superstore, Bolton, BL1 2TW. Tel: 01204 534343.

**LOCATION.** From Bolton head north on the A666 Blackburn Road. When you reach Astley Bridge turn left into Waverley Road. Turn left down the track to the fishery.

**SAT NAV.** BL1 6NW.

## Tactical Briefing

### GREENWOOD FISHERIES & NATURE RESERVE, NORCOTT BROOK, WHITLEY, CHESHIRE

**DESCRIPTION.** Set in eight acres of prime Cheshire countryside this is a non-profit making, privately owned fishery where all takings from the fishing are ploughed back into the lakes. It suits disabled, specialist, pleasure anglers and families alike. Kingfisher is home to all sorts of carp to 28 lb, tench to 9 lb, bream to 4 lb, perch and chub to 3 lb, roach, rudd and ide to 2 lb, plus small F1s. Longbank Lagoon has F1s to 4 lb, carp, green and golden tench to 2 lb, roach and golden rudd to 1 lb plus rare blue and silver orfe.

**TACTICS.** On Kingfisher try Method feeder with corn, pellet or meat on the hook, bream can also oblige. Tench to float fished corn close-in. On both waters float fish maggot, caster or soft pellet for all sorts of species, including silver fish and all strains of carp.

**GOOD SWIMS.** While the car park areas are always popular there are features all round the lakes to fish to.

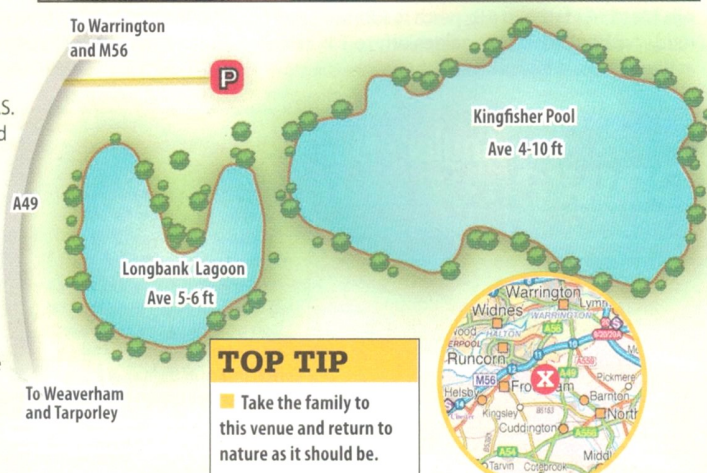
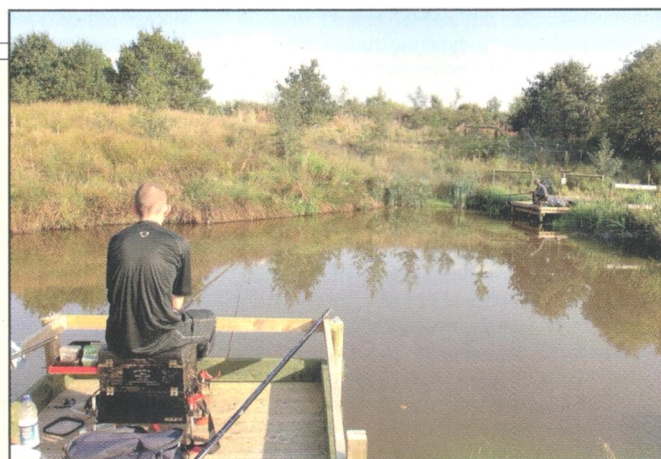
**TICKETS.** Day tickets on the bank at adult £6.50 one rod, £8 for two, OAPs, registered disabled and under-16s £5.50/£7. Costs from 6am to dusk. All under-16s must be adult

accompanied. Night fishing by strict prior arrangement: 24 hours £20, 48 hours £38, 24 hours with a cabin £25, 48 hours with a cabin £48. Maximum three rods when night fishing. Disabled access. Meals available. Barbless hooks only. No keepnets. Toilets on-site. Unhooking mats compulsory. Bookings: 07760 286480 or 01925 730596. North West byelaws. Open all year.

**LOCAL TACKLE SHOPS.** Cheshire Angling Centre, Warrington, WA4 1NF. Tel: 01925 635486. Dave's of Middlewich, Middlewich, CW10 9AS. Tel: 01606 833853. Bailey's Baits and Tackle, Warrington, WA1 4BP. Tel: 01925 823441.

**LOCATION.** From J10, M56 pick up the A49 Tarporley Road, heading south, from the roundabout, signed Whitchurch and Tarporley. After a mile and a half, the turning for Greenwood Fisheries is on the left (partly hidden) shortly after the petrol station and a large white house. Drive down the track to the lakes and car parks.

**SAT NAV.** WA4 4DZ.



### TOP TIP

Take the family to this venue and return to nature as it should be.





# May Potter Match Reports

2Nd March

Bomb and Feeder League. I've drawn 62 Bonsai. I've fished pellets on a bomb all day rotating 3 lines to weigh 72.15lb which has been enough to win the lake and be 3rd overall Ont day



3rd March

TO4 at Hallcroft today

I've drawn 43 on the Moat Inner. Long story short I've tried to push my peg too much. I've limped home with 21lb But I have learnt a lot from today

9th March

Golden rod qualifier at Lindholme today and I've been on peg 70 bonsai. Had a lovely day rotating lines towards the island on a small feeder with a 5mm yellow wow-ser hookbait. These have gone 51lb and been enough to win the lake and a spot in the final





## Golden Rod Final

First day of the Golden Rod final down at Larford Lakes and I've been on match lake peg 16 round the back of the island.

It's been very difficult with not many indications. I've had an odd f1 and a rogue carp for no good really. On to Speci tomorrow so fishing for a bit of pride and the daily money Good luck to those in contention tomorrow



2nd day of Golden rod and I've been on the far side of speci in the middle section. Ticked over on skimmers but unfortunately no carp for me. Managed 29lb but really needed a carp to boost me up.

Really enjoyed my first big final so be doing my best to get back



Today is my last day as a Dynamite Baits sponsored angler. A huge thank you to Mark Baker, Ian Jones and everyone I've met along the way that have helped me massively in my fishing over the last few years. I really can't express how grateful I am for the support and what they've done for me has helped me improve and compete as an angler.



They really have been good and some of the products I've had chance to use have been awesome. Without the support fishing at international level and competing in everything in the UK it would certainly be a lot harder. I owe a lot to them and everyone within the brand so a huge thank you!

Tight lines and see you all soon



# The Unofficial History of International Matchfishing

by John Lane



**I**T HAS long been believed by historians of our noble sport that the first international fishing match took place during the immediate post-war period.

This is not, in fact, the case. The first genuine international preceded this by many years, but until now, because of its devastating consequences, it has remained shrouded by the Official Secrets Act and thus unpublished. But now, at last, the truth can be told.

The match was the brainchild of French aristocrat Henri de Rigueur who, at the time (Spring 1914), was living in exile in the beautiful capital of Bosnia Sarajero. The reasons for De Rigueur's exile we need not dwell upon, but suffice to say it involved an unsavoury 'Menage a trois' with the Archbishop of Rheims, and the organiser's alsaion.

It was Henri De Rigueur's aim to emulate his countryman, Pierre de Coubertain (the father of the modern Olympiad), and unite the divided nations of Europe in sporting competition. To this end he organised the match for late June 1914 on a canalised stretch of the river Bosna just outside the city.

Being a keen angler himself De Rigueur contacted his friends in nine of the major countries of Europe, inviting them to send a 12 man team to compete.

The Duke of Pitsmoor, his English contact, was purely a game fisherman and was somewhat perplexed as to where to find 12 suitable anglers. But, by a stroke of good

fortune, he discovered that an early version of the British National Championship was to be fished in Scotland in mid May, just one week away. Seeing this as an ideal opportunity to rid himself of the burden of responsibility, he wrote to the organisers announcing that the winners of the Championship would represent the U.K in Sarajero.

This is not, I feel, the right time or place to fully discuss the outcome of that match. Let us just observe that it was a most unsportsmanlike event, which brought little credit to the two principal teams, Barnsley and Aberdeen, who tied for first place. Accusations of cheating and underhand deeds were rife, and there was indeed some circumstantial evidence to support this — the steward found drunk in charge of his scales, slumped over an empty barrel of Barnsley Bitter, or the discarded Mac Fisheries wrapper by the peg of the Aberdeen captain, for example.

But, as it had been decided that the winning team should fish in Sarajero, there was the job of picking a 12 man team from the two victorious squads.

If there was bad blood between Barnsley and Aberdeen it was best illustrated by the unrestrained hatred between their respective skippers. Albert Scargill and Hamish McGregor loathed each other with such intensity that it was impossible for them to remain in the same room without resorting to fistcuffs. It was obvious that neither man could lead the

British Team, so the Duke of Pitsmoor was forced to appoint a neutral captain. The man he chose, a non angler, had earned himself a reputation as a leader of men when, whilst officiating as umpire in a gentlemen v players cricket match at the Oval, he had single handedly given out L.B.W none other than the great W.G. Grace . . . and lived to tell the tale. His name was Marmaduke 'Birdie' Brand.

Brand was appointed captain in late May, barely four weeks before the match was due to be fished. He set to his task with great enthusiasm, and left no-one in any doubt as to his determination when, on the very first day, he summarily dismissed the two rival skippers. McGregor he banished to the United States, and Scargill he sent to the coal mines of his native Yorkshire. It might be of interest to note that their decendants . . . but no, that's another story.

Deprived of their leaders, the two teams became more docile and, whilst Brand was no angler, he was a shrewd judge of human nature and a first class organiser. He picked his 12 man team with confidence. All were good, skilful anglers, and under his stern eye they learned the discipline which he hoped would turn them into world beaters. They sailed for Sarajero on the 16th June, quietly confident of success.

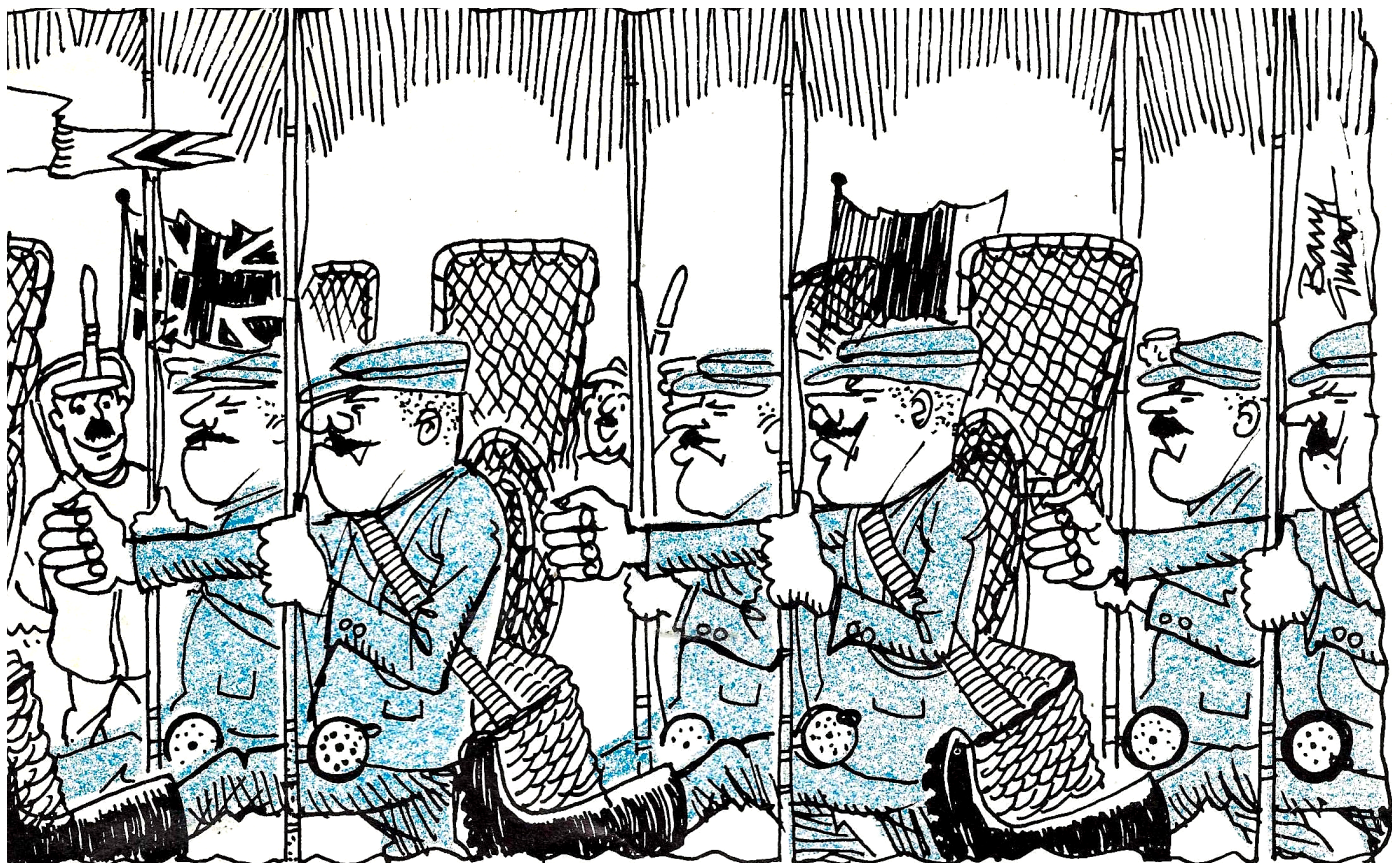
Whilst there were nine teams competing, it was generally agreed by all the pundits that only two had any real chance of

victory. As one of those teams left behind the while cliffs of Dover that June morning, their main rivals were already at the venue, and in serious training.

Otto Von Schtupp, the non-fishing captain and driving force behind the mighty German team was, like all his countrymen, a stickler for discipline and order. He marched up and down the banks of the Bosna behind his 18 man squad, humming Wagner and clicking his heels. With his spiked helmet honed to a point, and the sun glinting on his monocle he was the picture of Teutonic military excellence. His team were the cream of the Fatherlands' piscatorial army, experts in every field of the noble art, and devoted to their leader and the cause. Victory was their goal, and nothing less would do.

All the teams were billeted in the huge military barracks in the centre of Sarajero and, in the spirit of friendship with which De Rigueur had organised the event, were encouraged to mix freely, brother to brother, angler to angler, united in friendly rivalry. In reality there was much ill feeling. The competitive spirit allied to the fierce nationalism of the times eliminated most of the goodwill, and the teams eyed each other warily. Spies were despatched to watch the opposition in the daily practice sessions. Brands' agents in the field reported no serious opposition except the Hun. Von Schtupp, whilst anxious to take full advantage of the practice sessions, was careful not to





show all his cards to the opposition. He kept his secret weapon under wraps until match day. Or rather he tried to, but Bond, Brands' most resilient undercover man, loosened a few tongues with a bottle of 18 year old malt 'Glenmiller' whisky one night, and uncovered the whole sordid business. Marmaduke 'Birdie' Brand, upon hearing the news, immediately made it known to all the other team captains, and a joint formal objection was lodged.

De Rigueur was in a cleft stick. He did not wish to offend the proud German team, but likewise he dare not risk a mass boycott by all other nations. He was reluctantly forced to insist that Von Schtupp abandon his plan to use a midget submarine and depth charges, and an enraged German skipper withdrew his special three man squad, Borussia, Maensche and Gladbach, and sent them home. Von Schtupp was furious. He knew, of course, that Brand was behind this humiliation, and he swore revenge.

Match day arrived, and the teams assembled on the banks of the Bosna for the draw. The sun, which had been absent for the previous week, put in an unexpected appearance, and as the teams mingled, speculation was rife as to its effect on the fishing. Polonius, the Danish captain, beamed at one and all. This was just the weather he had hoped for, and he expected great things of his two pimping experts, Rosencranz and Guildenstern. For the French team, however, the sun was a

most unwelcome sight. Platini, their scheming skipper, did not even try to disguise his disappointment as he drew his first lieutenant, Henri De Gaulle, to one side to break the news that he had been dropped. 'Merde' De Gaulle moaned as he heard 'Substitute' again.

The joint favourites, however, paid little heed to these meteorological speculations. Both had anticipated every eventuality, and were confident of success. Marmaduke 'Birdie' Brand gave a last impassioned plea, exhorting his team to glory like Henry at Agincourt. Von Schtupp likewise urged his men on 'For the Fatherland and The Kaiser'. Britain drew 8, not a fancied number, and Germany 9, the end peg. A toe to toe battle was thus ensured.

The match lasted a mere four hours but, in that short time, an intensity of bad feeling grew between the British and German teams that did not fully subside for more than 30 years. The British struck the all important early psychological blow, with eight of their anglers catching first throw. The skilful Germans quickly got into their stride, but as the minutes ticked by the British edged further and further ahead. With 30 minutes left the Germans were doomed and everyone knew it, not least Von Schtupp. In a desperate last ditch attempt to save face, he played his last ace.

At the end of the downstream section of the match length was a lock which, for the duration of the competition was closed, enabling the level to be

maintained and the flow to cease. Below this lock was a drop of some 8 feet. Von Schtupp reasoned that if the lock gates were breached, then the level on the matchlength would fall so dramatically that the match would have to be abandoned. But the gates had been locked in position, and the only way to open them was by force. Von Schtupp had just the man for the job.

Arnold Smarmybeggar stood six foot six in his stockinged lederhosen, and had muscles the size of melons. He was the strongest man that side of the Danube, a former Mr. Austro Hungarian Empire. He was a veritable colossus, but very kind to his mum. Von Schtupp despatched him to the lock gates to do his worst.

Fifteen minutes later Arnold returned, walking like Randolph Scott, and whimpering in falsetto. His career was in ruins (though he later found fame as principal soprano with the Vienna boys choir). He had failed. Britain had won the match.

A festive mood prevailed that night at the post match celebration. The victorious British squad were feted by their fellow competitors from the many countries of Europe, and De Rigueur was delighted. Only the German squad stayed away. Locked away in their bunker stateroom deep below the barracks, they drowned their sorrows. The schanpps flowed freely long into the night.

Von Schtupp was consumed

with rage and hatred of the British, particularly Marmaduke 'Birdie' Brand, whom he saw as the architect of his downfall. As the night went on, his fury grew and spread to the rest of the occupants of the room. By midnight their guttural tones could be clearly heard above as the chant went up, 'Kill Marmaduke Birdie Brand!'

A young Servian waiter, one G. Princip, who was serving the schnapps in the Germans' room that night, was moved to action. Whether it was idolatry of Von Schtupp or just the euphoria of the occasion we will never know, but this humble young waiter vowed to avenge the humiliation of his heroes.

Unfortunately, somewhere along the line a tragic misunderstanding ensued. Perhaps it was the Teutonic enunciation of the name Marmaduke Birdie Brand, or maybe the waiter was a trifle deaf; either way his error was to have devastating consequences.

The following day, the 28th June 1914, a deranged Servian waiter with a bad ear for names wrongly assassinated Archduke Ferdinand and his wife in the streets of Sarajero, and exactly one month later, as a direct result of his action, World War 1 began. That, dear reader, as sure as my name is Ivan Marks, is the truth.

The return, for there was one, was a 2-legged beach contest. The first at Dunkirk in 1940 and the second in Normandy four years later . . . but that's another story, as yet unwritten. ■



# Bob Nudd Match Reports

**2nd March**

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



Despite the horrible conditions the fishing was brilliant , managed to win my section by default with 561 fish for just over 31lbs , just fished 4 mts to hand all day 1.25 DT Nevis float 18 hook to .12 , 5 Preston slip elastic. Fed smalls balls laced with pinkies and a few casters plus loose fed pinkies by hand ( you could see the fish taking the pinkies just below the surface ) March Open. River Old Nene. March Cambridgeshire. 60 pegs



# The ANGLER'S NEWS

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## HERE and THERE

**I**N mid-April I set out to fish my favourite reservoir for the first time this season. I could not have chosen a worse day, but having paid my money and travelled thirty miles I made the best of it, and set out in a boat on a sheet of water which was disturbed only by my oars and the movements of the water birds. There was not the faintest breeze, and the sun blazed down from a cloudless sky. The conditions were quite un-English and, for April, almost unique, I imagine. In depths down to 10 ft. I could see every detail of the bottom, and a trout's vision, looking upward to a blaze of light, must have been such that only those with suicidal tendencies would have come within reach of a fly.

I fished desultorily for some time, but without much hope or any success, and I spent much of my time watching birds. I had to leave soon after 5 p.m., when conditions were still bad, but I heard later that an angler caught a 3½-pounder (a big fish for the reservoir in question) in the cool of the same evening.

### LAKE-BED SURVEY

My day was not wasted, however. On previous visits I knew very little about the submarine contours of the reservoir, but I was enabled this time to learn something of the nature of the bottom. The reservoir was originally made by damming a valley, and in the clear water I was able to trace the lines of old banks and hedges, and their attendant ditches, and to find and plumb deep holes; all of which I noted down by marks. This knowledge should be useful when I fish the reservoir in normal weather conditions.

### C.I.P.S.

These new initials, which stand for the *Confederation Internationale de la Pêche Sportive*, may soon be well known. Mr. T. A. Waterhouse and Mr. H. A. Hind, President and Hon. Secretary respectively of the N.F.A., attended a meeting in Rome of angling delegates from some 20 countries. After a long discussion it was decided to form this confederation, though Mr. Waterhouse, on behalf of Great Britain, had to point out that he could not commit the N.F.A. to financial contributions until he had the authority of the Federation, which, as he said, was dependent for its funds entirely upon the contributions of its mem-

bers, unassisted, as were many foreign angling bodies, by grants from Government.

Sub-committees were set up for coarse fish: salmon and trout: sea fishing: submarine fishing: casting: and technical and scientific matters. Mr. Waterhouse is to serve on the salmon and trout sub-committee and Mr. Hind on that for coarse fish.

Full information on this subject is contained in the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee of the N.F.A. (March 29th), copies of which have been sent to affiliated associations.

One quotation from these minutes will show that agreement on almost any matter on an international basis is difficult to reach. "A discussion took place on the Coarse Fish Committee in connection with Competition rules, size limits, returning fish to the water alive, but the difference between the practices of the respective countries was so varied that agreement was not possible."

### HEAVY EXPENSES

The delegates expressed their appreciation of the excellent hospitality they had received at the hands of their Italian hosts; but in spite of this, the conference was obviously a trying one, involving late hours and considerable strain, and the British delegates are to be congratulated on attending the conference and presenting the British angler's outlook.

Travelling expenses were heavy, and these had to be met by the N.F.A., for a further appeal for assistance to the British Council, backed by the Rt. Hon. P. J. Noel Baker, M.P., failed completely. I have mentioned the British Council's attitude before in this column in this connection, but I must repeat that, if such a body cannot help delegates to attend an international angling conference (a matter which apparently lies well within their charter), its continued existence seems pointless.

### ANGLERS' FARES

An important matter which affects many anglers also appeared in the N.F.A. minutes. The N.F.A. has been informed by the British Transport Commission that, as from May 1st concession fares for anglers on British Railways have been withdrawn.

The N.F.A. resolved to press the Railway Executive to continue the concession, and to offer to discuss the matter if necessary. Since the N.F.A. meeting was held, the general increase in fares on May 1st has been cancelled, and it may be that this decision will also govern concession fares to anglers.

I see in an old angling calendar that concession tickets to anglers were first issued on June 17th, 1872.

### UNDERWATER TV

That the technique of underwater TV is developing rapidly was clearly demonstrated by Messrs. Siebe, Gorman & Co., at their experimental department at Tolworth, Surrey. In a tank constructed for the purpose, and lighted to represent sea water at a depth of 80 ft., every movement made by a "frogman" was clearly seen on the TV screen. The camera was connected to the recording apparatus by 450 feet of flex, and it is considered by the makers that it would work and withstand water pressure at a depth of at least 1,000 feet.

Commercially the camera will be invaluable for locating and examining wrecks, but no doubt it will soon be used by those whose duty it is to foster the fishing industry; and with its help biologists will be able to study in detail the flora and fauna of the seas while sitting in comfort in a surface craft. Much remains to be known of the habits—and particularly the feeding habits—of fish in our shallower waters, but the camera, while enabling this to be done, will also reveal life at greater depths, of which at the moment scientists have only the vaguest knowledge.

### MAGGOTS AS BAIT

Several histories of angling have been written, most of which tend to concentrate on the distant past. When a new history is written it should devote much of its space to the changes in fishing tackle and fashions which have taken place in the last fifty years, for they are great indeed.

In the 1890s a penny weekly angling periodical had a wide circulation, and I have a bound volume of the 1894 issues. As I looked through the advertisements I noticed how much more popular worms were than maggots in those days. Only one firm regularly advertised maggots, but a dozen offered worms—brandlings, maidendews, small reds, cockspurs, march, pinkheads and Edinburgh pinktails—to give a selection; and in August and September two or three firms advertised wasp grubs.

To-day there must be a dozen firms which can be said to sell maggots on a national scale, apart from innumerable local breeders.

### MONEY IN MAGGOTS

Science has been called in to improve nature, and by the use of dyes maggots can be provided in almost any shade the angler fancies.

It has been said that £1,000 worth of maggots were used in the Festival International Match held on the Thames last August, and that figure, given in the national Press, caused laymen some surprise—but it is really, I think, a small sum compared with the value of maggots used every week-end in the height of the coarse fishing season. I do not think I shall exaggerate if I say that 100,000 anglers fishing with maggots use at least half the contents of a five-shilling tin every week-end—and a hundred thousand half-crowns is getting into big money.

### CASTING CLUBS

Bedford Casting Club, which was reformed after a break during the war years, is again carrying out its Sunday morning practices during the close season. The idea behind casting clubs (the members of which are also usually members of the local angling club) is an excellent one, for at little cost in subscriptions it is possible to keep one's interest in fishing alive during the close season, to enter into friendly competition with other members (and, as a body, with other casting clubs), and to impart or learn much useful knowledge.

Local experts are usually available to teach young anglers and less skilful performers the correct methods of fly and float casting, and as the tackle employed is that used in actual fishing, there is a direct relationship between the two, a relationship which is missing in professional casting, where casts of such lengths are made with special equipment that no fish could ever be hooked or managed if they were made in practical fishing.

### WHERE TROUT FEED

Francis Francis wrote: "Fish do not always lie in the same spots when feeding; much depends on the weather. The angler should remember that the fish always—particularly in larger streams—follow the food." This is very true, and slight variations of water level make big variations in the movements of currents, which alter the flow of food; and the most successful wet-fly fishermen are those who note these changes.

### TAIL PIECE

Many anglers will have read of the metal weather-vane in the shape of a fish which was stolen at Bridlington and discovered a day or two later in a dust-bin. If metal fish were the only ones to finish up in dust-bins, our fish stocks would be better than they are.

CORIDON.



**THE Dove.** Sweet indeed is the name of this beautiful river that serves as a boundary between Staffordshire and Derbyshire. It rises at the corner of Axe Edge, and is forty-five miles long. In its upper lengths above Hartington village it is quite a small stream, passing through Crowdecote and by Pilsbury, down an enclosed valley. As the river descends the lovely dales it

fishing in these rivers (trout and grayling) available to residents at the hotel. Longnor is higher upstream than Hartington, situated on high ground between the Dove and Manifold valleys, and is invigorating hill country, about six miles from Buxton.

It is after leaving Hartington, a delightful Peakland village with an inn, post-office and one or two boarding-houses and a

Cotton's shrine are permitted to gaze upon the sacred waters, for, from Hartington right down to the bottom of Dovedale, a footpath runs by the riverside through dales growing in picturesqueness as we proceed.

In Beresford Dale we pass by Pike Pool—where you cross over the stream from the Derbyshire side by a rustic footbridge, and pause to recall the conversation between Viator and Piscator: "But what have we got here? A rock springing up in the middle of the river! This is one of the oddest sights that ever I saw." And the reply: "Why, sir, from that Pike you see standing up there some distance from the rock, this is called Pike Pool."

#### LITTLE HAS CHANGED

The second part of "The Compleat Angler" was written by Charles Cotton in 1676, as an addition to the fifth edition of

Walton's famous book. No man was ever better fitted to undertake the work, for Cotton had fished in the clearest of rivers since boyhood, and knew all the arts and devices of "How to Angle for trout or grayling in a Clear Stream." And, as we look upon the Dove in Beresford Dale, we cannot help thinking that no angler could desire a more fascinating stream to practise such fishing. Happily, the dale is almost as undisturbed and secluded as it was when Cotton roamed its banks and wrote so charmingly and with such detailed instruction, nearly 300 years ago.

Past the ancient pack-horse bridge at the foot of Beresford and near Wolfscote Dale we continue along a rocky path hemmed in by steep hills. The Dove is a rather wild stretch of water right through Narrowdale, especially after rainstorms. Sheep hang precariously on the steep slopes, cropping the sweet grasses. One cannot

help wondering who carted all the rough stones up those steep on either bank, to build the walls.

At the foot of Narrowdale we come to Dove Cottage on the Alsop-en-le-dale and Alstonefield road. At Alstonefield we may see the pew in the ancient church where Cotton worshipped on Sundays. It is a good walk to reach it, and is uphill all the way, but, if the visitor has plenty of time, is worth the effort.

Proceeding downstream from Dove Cottage, Milldale is reached, where we again cross over the stream, this time by means of a little stone-built bridge—the bridge mentioned in Cotton's second part of the immortal classic.

Viator "What's here? the sign of a bridge? Do you use to travel with wheelbarrows in this country... why, a mouse can hardly go over it: 'tis not two fingers broad."

It is below here that we enter Dovedale proper, and we arrive at the hotel lengths of Dove, winding its way by caves and pillars of limestone, gnatling over little cascades and everywhere gay and sparkling. Many of the tall grassy slopes and pinnacles are named—there are the Thimbleton Spires, the Twelve Apostles, Sam Rock, Lover's Leap, and the Giant's Head Rock. Thorpe Cloud is a round hill rising ponderous and august at the southern entrance to the dale, with another smaller "mountain" behind the Great Walton hotel.

The hotel holds the sole fishing rights of this valley on both banks. There is a good stretch of trout and grayling in the water. There is also a mile of nice fishing on the (Continued on following page, col. 3)

# PRINCESS OF RIVERS

by . . . MIDLANDER

attains beauty and size until, when Dovedale proper is reached, the water has become an ideal habitat for the speckled trout and silver-grey stream-lined grayling.

Even to-day this stream, immortalised in the second part of "The Compleat Angler," 5th edition, retains much of its ancient fame, and justifies it. Unlike the other Derbyshire river the Derwent, alongside which for many miles run tar-dressed roads, and on whose banks, in places, are mills, railway sidings, factories, and paint-works, the Dove is, for the most part—especially in the upper and middle reaches—free from risk of major pollutions, though it has its own little troubles.

To-day, as in Cotton's time, the river holds a good head of trout and grayling. Yet we might find difficulty in asserting, as Cotton did, that it is "the fullest of fish" we ever saw. Still, on our visit we had evidence of many fish rising in the pools, catching sight of nice trout cruising in the clear waters and fat grayling lying like slate-coloured logs in the deeper holes. With its numerous little cascades, and its placid pools mirroring the towering grey crags here and there, its fast stretches as in Narrowdale, its delightful flowery banks, it seems the perfect trout and grayling water.

Much of the fishing rights are either in private hands or in those of syndicates or groups of anglers who stock and preserve keenly; yet there are miles of fishing available to visitors staying at the hotels in Dovedale district, of which more later.

The Dove rises at a spot known as Dove Head; here is a mossy stone bearing the initials of the two renowned anglers, Charles Cotton and Izaak Walton, intertwined, for the two men frequently visited this place high up on Axe Edge. For the first few miles the stream winds through a valley to reach Crowdecote, where stands the Pack Horse Inn, haunt of anglers. Hereabouts the stream is more of a brook or beck, but holds trout and grayling. A few miles lower down, Hartington is a most useful centre for exploring these upper reaches, and I have pleasant memories of this old Derbyshire village. Another memory is different. During one visit the local cheese factory was burned out in the night, and for some time afterwards the smell of burning cheese lingered on the air.

#### MEMORIES OF COTTON

At Hartington is the Charles Cotton hotel, with fishing available for guests. This hotel contains interesting relics of the angler poet after whom it is named. The fishing extends over half a mile of Dove, and within a few minutes' walk of the hotel, good for trout and grayling.

Longnor—a pleasant village standing on the main road from Bakewell to Leek, is bounded on the north by the Dove and on the south by the Manifold. Four miles of

Youth Hostel, that the Dove begins to grow in size and beauty, and when we get down to Beresford Dale, we wonder not that



*The wildest stretch of the River Dove, where it flows through the valley at Narrowdale.*

Cotton should christen the Dove "Princess of Rivers," so utterly charming is it, set in lovely wooded surroundings. Cotton lived at Beresford Hall, but few traces of the house where he delighted to entertain Izaak Walton now remain.

#### A FISHING SHRINE

In the upper corner of Beresford Dale still stands the little fishing Temple—a wonderful shrine where anglers may pause to pay respects to the memory of the authors of the 5th and later editions of "The Compleat Angler." Piscatorially and pictorially this dale transcends all others, for the spirits of the immortals are surely here, in this most peaceful and secluded spot sacred to all "honest" anglers. As Sir Douglas McCraith says in his delightful book, "By Dancing Streams"—"It was here that the bearers of the most famous names in angling literature used to spend happy days; and, as is the case with all good anglers, they are permitted to return in spirit to their favourite haunts. Most of these they have long since abandoned, for they are unrecognisable to-day; Beresford Dale alone is in the natural state in which they left it. It is true that the comfortable shelter of Beresford Hall is no longer available, but they do not require it."

Words seem inadequate to express the sentiments and emotions of the fly fisher lingering in this dale. Catching a trout or slender grayling in this stretch of exquisite water embowered in beautiful trees is not available to everyone—only the elect among the fly-fishing fraternity are allowed to throw a lure over the crystal-clear pools.

But even we humbler worshippers of



# ARMCHAIR ANGLING

by . . . P. TRYON

THE close season takes anglers in different ways. Some put away all thoughts of the water with their tackle until mid-June brings the hopes and possibilities of a new season; others—and they are wise men—employ some of the time in spring cleaning the tackle cupboard, a stronghold which is outside the domain of feminine controls; others set themselves an intensive course of reading angling books; others again, and this includes most of us at one time or another, indulge in the luxury of armchair angling—re-living past triumphs or conjuring up future ones by the waters of imagination.

On the whole there is a lot to be said for all these occupations, and many anglers combine most of them. Only the half-hearted fisherman puts away all thoughts of his sport till midsummer, though for the gardener it is perhaps just as well that sowing time comes within the fence months. When I was a child the annual seaside holiday formed the highlight of the whole year, and when that precious spell was over, and home-coming brought the dreary round of lessons again, the one bright spot was to clean and prepare sailing boats, prawning nets, and all the rest of the seaside paraphernalia ready for the following year. The angler retains much the same outlook throughout his life, for messing about with tackle seems to bring the next season nearer.

A thorough stocktaking, both of equipment and fishing possibilities, is a good plan for other reasons too. Most of us can only afford a limited amount of money for sport out of the family budget, and careful planning in advance helps to make one's available cash go further. Tackle is obviously the first step. Rods, nets, reels and lines which have been cleaned, dried, and carefully stored will last longer and give better service in fishing days ahead. Then there are all the smaller items which need renewing from time to time: gut or nylon, hooks, floats, and the rest. If they are checked and graded now, one need get only the real necessities at the beginning of the season, instead of buying lavishly and then finding perfectly good duplicates which turn up at the bottom of a creel, or underneath a pair of rubber boots.

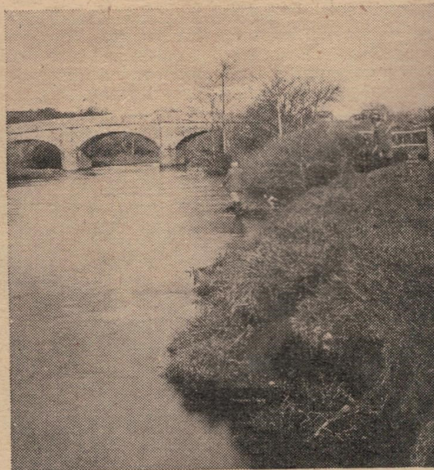
## A USEFUL INVESTMENT

For those who enjoy reading there is no doubt that angling books are a useful and inexpensive form of investment, and the close season is the best time to read. Some people can learn from books, others cannot; personally I find it much easier to pick things up from a book than from verbal instructions, but not everybody is the same in this respect. There are any amount of good books to be had for those who like them: angling reminiscences (real armchair angling, this!), instruction on different types of fishing, waters, fish and so on; and compared with the price of tackle they are cheap—few run to more than 15s., and many are as little as 6s. A good public library will probably have a few of them, and in this way one can pick those which are worth buying to keep for reference.

This year I have come across several coarse fishermen who want to take up trout angling to while away the spring months. This, of course, is a case where books are particularly useful, for a reader who is already experienced in bottom fishing or spinning will find it much easier to pick up the elements of fly fishing than the complete novice. I feel, however, that intending trout fishers should be warned of possible

difficulties ahead. In well-known coarse fishing areas there are often very few trout, and *vice-versa*. Broadly speaking, the Midlands, East, and South of England are the coarse fisherman's country; trout fishing is to be found there, but it is scarce and may be very expensive. On the other hand, in the North, Wales, and the South West, there are plenty of trout and often salmon and sea-trout as well, but other species are in a minority. Therefore unless you can travel about it is not always easy to switch from one form of sport to the other, and it is just as well to find out the local possibilities before raising one's hopes too high.

Old men dream dreams, young men see visions, and one of the chief joys of angling is that we may do both. Memories of long



With a car one can travel 20-30 miles.

days of high summer after portly bream, grayling fishing in all the richness of an English autumn, winter expeditions after pike when the bare trees are outlined in all their beauty against the sky, and numbed hands and feet grow warm in the excitement of the fight. These are lasting investments which will pay dividends of pleasure throughout a lifetime, remaining clear and fresh in the days when joints grow stiff and fishing is not the joyous thing which once it was.

Visions are apt to take a more practical turn. "Where shall I go for a fishing holiday, or for week-end outings this summer? How much will it cost, and will it prove to be worth the money?" To get the answers to such questions one must take more action than sitting still in an armchair. The first step is to decide what you want, and roughly the distance you can travel for it. For instance, if day fishing is the object, there is the means of transport to be considered; with a car you are probably prepared to drive 20-30 miles or even more, with a bicycle 10-15; if you have neither, your radius will depend on the availability of trains and buses.

## EXPLORING NEW PASTURES

Most people will agree that for comfort the journeys should not take more than two hours each way, and preferably a good deal less. If you have just moved to a new district, or have not thoroughly explored the possibilities of your area, the simplest thing to do is to take an ordinary map— $\frac{1}{2}$  inch to the mile—decide the distance you are prepared to travel, and draw a circle of that radius round your home. That will give you the scene of your operations, and the map should show the rivers, streams, and larger ponds which it includes, though it will not show very much more.

The next step is to locate the best places for fishing and find out who controls them. Now, contrary to some people's belief, there

is no central record showing who owns every bit of water throughout the country. A great deal of such information has been catalogued, and it is fairly easy to get a list of all fishery owners on many of the more famous rivers, but there are hundreds of miles of small streams, canals, and so on, about which one must get local information. Fishing friends and acquaintances who know the district are, of course, the best source for such details, but if one is a stranger the problem is more difficult.

The obvious answer is the local angling club, either in your own town or at the place where you want to fish. But even this line of approach is not always plain sailing. Some small angling clubs which are not affiliated to any of the central bodies may not be known outside their own district, and it can be quite difficult to find them.

This is where some groundwork in the close season is useful. My own plan is to make a special journey to the place, well in advance, and set about hunting down the club secretary—if there is one, of course. If there is a local tackle or bait dealer one's troubles are more than half over, for he is sure to know the man one needs.

Once a club secretary is found, he can supply most of the vital facts: where is the best water, how best to fish it, whether tickets are available, price and so on. It is a slow business, but to do this at each sizeable place within your chosen area is probably the best way of discovering all the available possibilities, and the individual can then lay out his plans in the same way that club outings are arranged.

Holidays are more difficult. Few of us are able to go off for a week-end beforehand to spy out the land, or rather water, so plans must be made by post. As far as the seaside is concerned it is fairly safe to say that there is sea fishing of some kind at most places on the coast. A great many of the regular holiday resorts run large angling festivals during the summer, and if one wants to plan a holiday to include these, a letter to the town clerk will generally produce details of the dates, etc.

Inland there is nothing for it but to find out a likely spot either by a friend's recommendation or from some central source of information.

Really, when one comes to think about it the close season is hard work. It will be quite restful to take out a rod again.

## PRINCESS OF RIVERS

(Continued from preceding page)

tributary Manifold). Waders are required for some parts of both streams. The limit is three brace of fish, and none under 10 inches to be retained. The charges are: 25s. per week, or 5s. 6d. per day. No fee for grayling fishing after September. It was here that Edward Marston came and stayed whilst endeavouring to catch the trout, and you can read all about the hotel and his adventures on the river, in his charming little book, "An Amateur Angler's Days in Dovedale." He pays a fine tribute to the place, still in the hands of the same family.

Anglers may fish these much-prized waters of Dovedale when staying as guests at the New Inns Hotel, Alsop-en-le-dale, and at the Peveril of the Peak Hotel, Thorpe. Lower downstream there is further good angling in the Ashbourne area. The Ashbourne Fly-fishers' Club has fishing rights on the Henmore and Bentley Brooks, both tributaries of the Dove. No day tickets are available.

The whole district of Dovedale is one of great charm and loveliness. Romance, beauty, history and literary associations combine to attract visitors and admirers from far and near. Anglers in particular are drawn to the Dove, eager to tread in the footsteps of Charles Cotton. The trout fishing is, perhaps, at its best in May and early June.



# Clive Roberts Memoir's

## Part 4

The river Wye at Belmont, Hereford had also become part of our match fishing circuit, run by Hereford AA that at the time had no regular match anglers.

We also had some great matches on the Wye further up on a stretch called Glasbury & Whitby. The Welsh National was also held there during this period. Remembering that our Cardiff Nomads winning that event, and my 2lb of gudgeon winning my section, contributing to our win.



Back to the lower Wye and we fished the Lower Wye team championships, and the Coleshill team from the midlands was our main competitor, we had some great battles in the preceding years.

One occasion was in 1974 when during the close season the finals of the Angling Times League was fished in Ireland. Our team had won through to the finals and it was held on the River Shannon, all expenses paid by the Paper for all divisional winners. I had a great days fishing the pole and caught 54lb for 6th in the match. Nomads were well down on that day, but an interesting fact was that Clive Smith captain of Coften Hacket worked out, that if the match was decided on points then we would had won, but instead the competition was decided by weight.

During this time in Ireland there was a lot of trouble with the IRA and it was no wonder that we had a bit of a scare when one of the team members left his bucket of bait under one of the cars in the car park, and the police arrived thinking it may had been a bomb.

1975 Saw me finally win a match on the Bristol Avon at Limpley Stoke. I fished the usual waggler tactic but this time with bread flake. On a size 16 hook I won the match with just 5lb 5oz

Later that year I was fishing the River Wye, a team event where Coleshill won the event and Nomads were 2nd, my consolation was that I managed 4th place with 22lb 5oz, which was not bad in this 250 pegged match

1976 I ventured further afield and this time it was the River Severn at Stourport, a place called Holtfleet. This was a class circuit and winning anything was very difficult. However I did manage to win a section at Stourport with a massive weight of just 2lb of roach. Holtfleet was a bleak venue and this was the first time I came across this species, and a low double weight was the target in most matches. I done well to catch 5lb of them, and the main man on this venue was Paul Foster who won more than others. 1977 was one of my worst match fishing seasons according to my records. This was the year we started to travel to Gloucestershire and fish the main Gloucester Canal, perhaps we were fishing to many venues at that time to learn any methods properly, yet it was a learning curve for me.





Come the winter and back to the River Wye, and the team Coleshill were top of their game with Austin Clisset from the mid-lands picking up mayor prizes. One match in particular was when he won a 200 peg match at Whitney, using the bread in a four hour match with an impressive 87lb, in those days that weight was a record for a four hour match. I blanked that day, but I sat behind him and learnt a lot, participle Bread Fishing. This helped me for future successes. In fact even still today I favour that method of fishing than any other.

Later that year our Cardiff Nomad team did finally manage to beat the mighty Coleshill team in the lower Wye Team Championships. On that match I caught one 2lb chub that gave me huge section points, and help the team to success.

In late winter of that year I was introduced to a new bait, Bloodworm. A local angler from Newport, Ron Cousins introduced the bait to the South Wales anglers. He travelled to Lancashire and was supplied by Brian Sharples a well known bloodworm scraper form Yorkshire. Ron brought back plenty of bloodworm for others to purchase off him and the red devils became a winning bait especially in team matches that were held on our local waters. We first started to use this bait in Newport Morgans Pond were in the winter it was rock hard, however bloodworm would catch fish were other baits would struggle.

Using this bait became very addictive and were before we struggled the bloodworm secured me two seconds and a match win. In fact the first time I used the bait I caught 40n roach for just 1lb 1oz



Summing up that season that although I never won a lot it was a great learning season for me, including Bleak fishing, Bread Fishing and Bloodworm Fishing, I can honestly stay that Bread Fishing for Chub and Bloodworm fishing for roach and skimmers became my favourite way of fishing for the rest of my match fishing career.

1978 was a new year and I found my form again winning and getting placed on my beloved river Usk at the end of the winter season I averaged 24lb of dace out of Severn matches that I had fished.

In this year my Cardiff Nomad team were a bit unlucky with two second positions in two major competitions. The Wye winter league and the South of England Championships on the River Huntspill in Somerset. (Two entirely different venues and tactics)

1979 was a year of travelling which saw me fish many different venues again where I struggled on a lot of venues except my local Roath Park Lake, where I could practice and win a few matches. Also this year is when we first travelled to the Kennet & Avon Canal in the West country, this venue was full of weed but plenty of fish, including Tench and Crucian Carp. I learnt more methods especially when the canal started to tow because of the locks and boat traffic. When it flowed I learnt how to catch roach and skimmers by holding back with my hand made flat floats.

*More next time*

# Steve Ringer Facebook Reports

Brilliant weekend at the Big one show down in Farnborough. Although absolutely shattered now. Massive thanks to everyone who came and said hello too. It's much appreciate

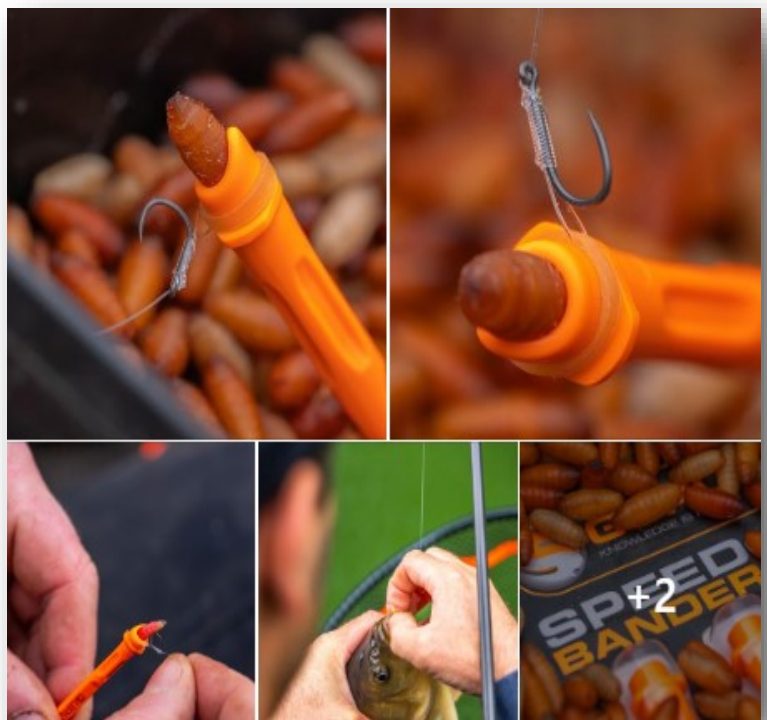


If your looking for a bit of sunday evening viewing why not check out my latest Guru bitesize video.

The venue is meadowlands and there's definitely something for everyone. Big skimmers early then some red hydro sized carp in the edge to finish. If you haven't already then make sure you check it out. I'll pop the link in the comment

In the shops now.

Guru speed bander. When you get a product that Andy Bennett uses then you know it must be good. Basically it makes banding casters or maggots both quick and easy. Something which when fishing shallow can make all the difference







Last round of the teams of 3 at the fantastic Meadowlands Fishery . Team draw wasn't the best although I had a good one in peg 49 on the pump. End peg going into the bay. Also had Geoff behind me too so no pressure. Good to have him back on the bank.

Fished identically to my recent video on there so if you haven't watched it yet check it out. Link in the comments. Caught 23lb of skimmers and 3 carp for 45lb at 6 joints on pellets and corn. Then had 16 carp long up the edge to finish with 195lb and the all important 1 point for the team.

On the team front another solid display with ADAM WAKELIN FISHING 6th and Mark Griffiths Angling angling 2nd saw us win the league on weight from cap-

tain crooks. Oh and must mention Baz Byrds 28lb mirror next peg. Amazing fish . Although he lied and said it was 30lb. Well done to Pete Caton too on the match win with an awesome 205lb on the deeps. Lastly a massive thanks to Wayne Sharman on a great league. Perfectly run as usual. It's much appreciated.

I went down for the Friday practice match drawing match lake peg 9. One above the rope for those that know it on the grass bank. Experimented a bit but ended up learning there were more carp down the middle early and that they weren't coming to any amount of bait. Ended up on a 24g small hybrid to keep ticking over. It also seemed late on they bypassed the 4 to 6m line and came straight in the edge. Anyway I finished with 14 carp for just under 90lb and 3rd on the lake.

Next day was the final and like the other 65 finalists I was praying for an end peg. Was therefore disappointed to draw specimen lake 32 as with 33 and 1 both being ends I had no chance of a section win..it was a case of 3rd at best. A 16lb mirror carp first drop at 5m was a great start but then managed 40lb of skimmers for 8th in the 11 pegs. Realistically 5th was possible I think. I think in hindsight 5m was too far out. As I caught skimmers which no one around me did. The carp seemed to be up the slope another metre. I also possibly over fed too trying to make it happen. Rob Cooksey smashed the section off 33 casting 60m down the bank into the corner with nearly 160lb. Peg 1 was then 2nd.

Day 2 and match lake peg 6. About as bad as it gets. Caught two carp down the middle with an hour to go then chased a very odd shadow down the edge for the last hour for nothing. I think again I over fed the edge and wasn't patient enough. It was worth 2 bites I think had I fed less and been more patient. Maybe smaller hookbaits too. Again no chance of winning as end peg 33 took the section out but 2nd was possible with a better edge display. I weighed 13lb and i think 20lb was 2nd. My edge fishing is definitely something I need to work on as when there's like one carp coming in every 10 minutes they are very hard to catch. I think if I had fed nothing and just dropped my feeder in and fished I'd have caught more.

Lastly a massive well done to Rob Burgin on winning off two very average draws. A class display in hard sections. Also a big thanks to Phil Briscoe and his team for a very well run final. As for me I must draw better but also fish better too. Sometimes it's easy to blame pegs when equally you haven't got it quite right either. Did I have any chance of winning from my pegs? No. But 7 points was achievable.



# GET ON THE RIGHT LINES!

From braid to mono, here's how to make sense of line for feeder fishing use

Braid fishing requires a shockleader to cut down on lost fish under the rod-tip or crack-offs on the cast. I build around four turns of 8lb or 10lb Daiwa Tournament ST into my rig to act as that vital cushion.

I'm happy to fish either Guru Pulse or Daiwa Hyper Sensor as mono mainlines as both are supple, tough and sink well after a few casts. Around 150m is ample to load on to a reel.



Here's a line that sees the light of day when I go over to Ireland fishing for roach and skimmers. Drennan Double Strength is very strong for its diameter, but incredibly fine.

**A**T FIRST glance, picking a line for feeder fishing can be a daunting. Do you go for mono? When does braid work? Is fluorocarbon worth it? The days of winding a spool of 4lb Maxima on to your reel and asking it to do everything are gone.

I think that most of us understand breaking strains relative to the size of fish being targeted but there is more to it than meets the eye.

Mono still rules the roost and is my mainline for 90 per cent of my fishing but there are times when braid is utterly dominant and occasions when a heavier mono shockleader built into your rig can help your fishing.

Even hooklength materials can throw up questions in terms of diameter and the material you're using in the first place, but I have some very simple rules that you can follow when the times comes to reload your reels with line.



## STEP-BY-STEP – TYING BRAID TO MONO

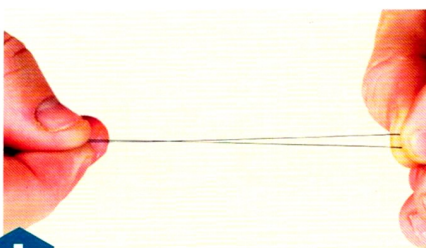


Fluorocarbon isn't something that you'll see a lot of feeder anglers using but in winter, when the water is clear, it plays a part for smaller fish such as skimmers and F1s. I wouldn't use it for carp, though!

Braid's lack of stretch means that bites are magnified and its low diameter makes for long and accurate casting. I use 0.10mm Guru Pulse 8 for my short-range work, Tournament Evo for longer casts.

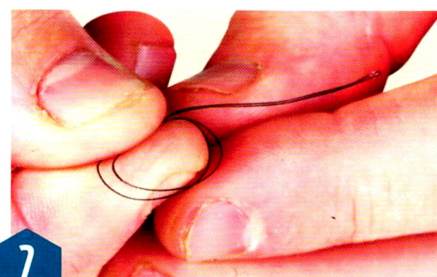


Guru N-Gauge isn't just a line for making pole rigs from – it is also my main hooklink material for feeder fishing on commercials or for big bream work at home and in Ireland.



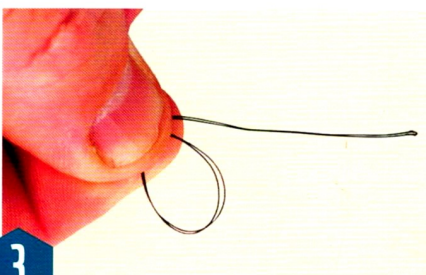
1

The first job is to create a loop in the braid. I make mine 1.5ins-2ins long to give some flexibility. Simply pass the braid back on itself to start.



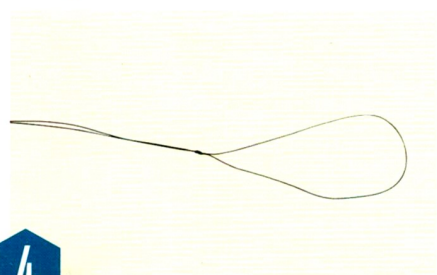
2

Time to tie the loop off. I use the figure of eight knot and this is done to begin with by passing the doubled braid back over itself, as above.



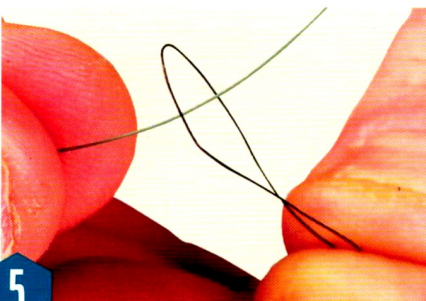
3

Now pass the end of the braid underneath the loop that you have made and back to bring it through the loop. Pull tight to create the knot.



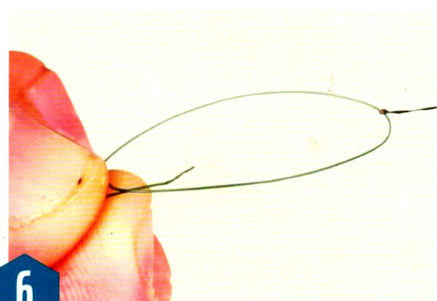
4

This is the finished loop. It has to be big enough to pass the shockleader mono through but the knot must be small enough to pass through the rod rings.



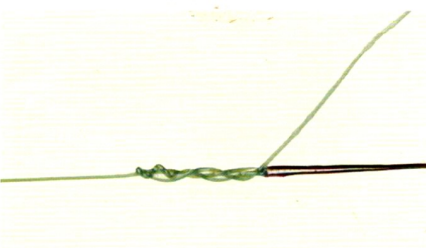
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Take the shockleader mono and thread it through the loop. I like to have around four turns of shock leader on my reel when the feeder's ready to cast.



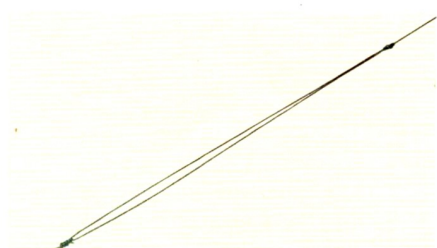
6

Now it is time to tie the leader on to the braid. This uses a double tuck blood knot that will take into account any slippage of the knot when fishing.



7

Once the double tuck blood knot is tied, I make sure that the tag ends on both the braid and mono are trimmed very short to help on the cast.



8

The finished knot that's very neat, won't cause tangles and can pass through the rod rings with ease when casting. It is also very strong and extremely flexible.



# MAKING THE RIGHT HOOK CHOICE

They're the most important part of your rig, but are you picking the right one for the job?

**A** S THE part of your rig that is in the most direct contact with a fish, it stands to reason that selecting the right hook is the most important choice to make when tackling up on the feeder.

Because you are fishing at reasonable ranges, a lot of pressure is placed on the hook during the strike and battle. You may also need to hair-rig baits in summer or scale down with small baits in cold weather.

That means having a versatile selection in your hook box. I limit my selection to the following six patterns for my feeder fishing...

## GURU LWGF FEEDER SPECIAL

When fishing natural venues for skimmers and when I want to hook baits normally (ie. not hair-rig them) these are superb in sizes 12 to 16.



## GURU SUPER MWG

If I am fishing for more of a mixed bag on commercial fisheries (F1s and skimmers) then I change from the QM1 to these hooks in sizes 14 to 18. Being eyed, they're perfect for hair-rigging.



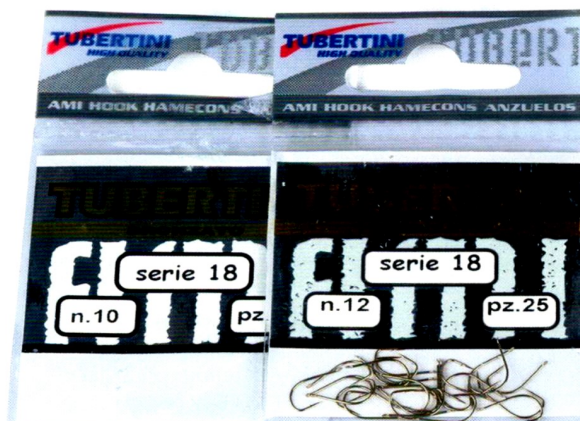
## GURU QM1

A legendary hook on commercial fisheries – an out-and-out carp pattern for hair-rigging pellets, boilies and Wafers. I use them in sizes 10 to 14.



## GURU MWGB BARBED

A barbed hook comes into play on bream waters like Ferry Meadows, but it still needs an eyed pattern to hair-rig worms or corn. I can't fault these in sizes 18 and 16.



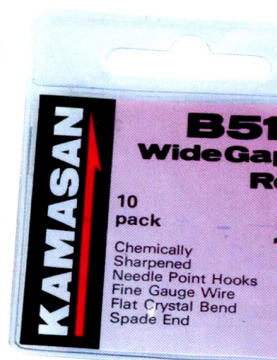
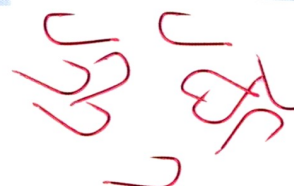
## TUBERTINI SERIES 18

My standard hook for roach and hybrid fishing in Ireland. The Series 18 is very strong for its size and I tend to use them in big sizes (10-14). Another bonus is that they stay sharp for a long time.



## KAMASAN B512

For catching small fish at speed in Ireland the B512 is my favourite, as it has a long shank that makes unhooking fish so much faster. They're also a very sharp and durable pattern.





# Hadrian Whittle

## Match Reports

March 3

Moorlands Silvers League Round 8,671!

A day not to forget as lots of lessons learnt... Dean Barlows handy landing net tip for starters! Peg 9 on islands was my home for the day... a pool I've never fished it looked great tbh but some research told another story bar round 1 when the peg won the section with 13lb it had been poor and I was unable to buck that trend... lesson 2 was despite the

savage cold you can be too negative sometimes I massively misjudged the conditions expecting a grueller! my 11-13-0 was fourth in section miles off the winner who had 22lbs... no way I was getting close to that but pretty sure there was 15lbs- 16 lbs up to be caught! If it hadn't been so cold it would have been an enjoyable day tbh! Up in wales with the boy biking today then Gloucester Canal next Sunday.... Can we have some dry weather now please!



Final round of the CIPs league in Gloucester canal... tbh it's been a league to forget had a nice enough day today catching off 3 lines but with Lee catching a big bream next door and the last 4 pegs all catching them i had no choice but to try and force the peg in pursuit on one sadly without any joy!

It's fished well in areas today so hopefully the challenge will be ok! one more match on Sunday to try and find some form!



It's that time of year Sensas Challenge practice starts next week... Bloodworms hard to come by this year with way too much water in most ponds... only nearly drowned twice this week



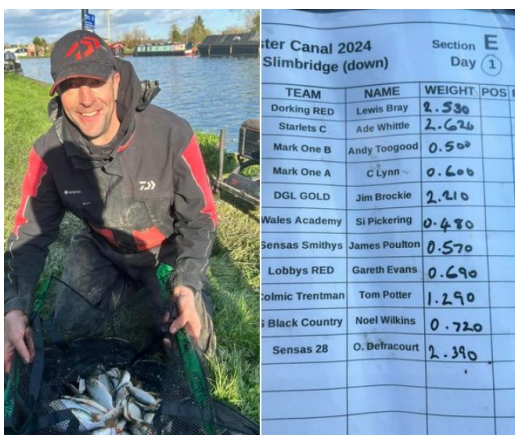
17th March

Not a good weekend on the bank results wise but nice to be out!

Last round of the Moorlands Farm Fishery silver league yesterday and unfortunately I've managed to draw peg 9 on islands for the 2nd match running a peg which has been consistently poor... I actually had a nice day catching 19-4-0 but was always behind virtually everyone else in the lake a large shoal of F1's sat eating all my casters 6 inches under the surface at 4 m didn't really help... I bet the sneaky little critters wouldn't of been so obliging if they had counted! Well done Jason Cunningham on winning the league and Grant Albutt for running a great series! My League was plagued by some very poor draws poor decisions and a lack of finding that edge felt like I was always forcing my pegs that little bit too hard tbh!

Today it was back to the Gloucester canal for a 40 pegger at Slimbridge ... perfect practice for next weekends challenge.... Er Nope! Unless we get another 8 hr downpour that sent a huge surge of chocolate water into the canal from the river Cam! A days bream fishing it was 3 fish in 3 chucks 3 hrs 20 min s in and that was it.. the area was really poor but once you got a few pegs to my right and 5 pegs to my left plenty of bream and skimmers were caught! All pretty irrelevant as I can't see us being faced with similar conditions next week.... Saying that I guess it could rain again!!

Day 1 Sensas challenge... I've had a great day catching roach at Slimbridge to win the zone but unfortunately the teams had a really poor day ... gutting tbh as we've put a lot of work in.. that's fishing though.



Day 2 tomorrow and hopefully we can restore some pride!

**Day 2** of the Sensas challenge, after yesterday's poor team result I was hoping for a good peg to get me a section win. I in search of individual glory! peg A15 4 up from Hempstead bridge was not what I had hoped for but with it fishing so hard you never know! The peg was a tad tight to the boats and both accessing their barges from my ends it could have been challenging... luckily it was anything but both lady's were very understanding even got a couple of

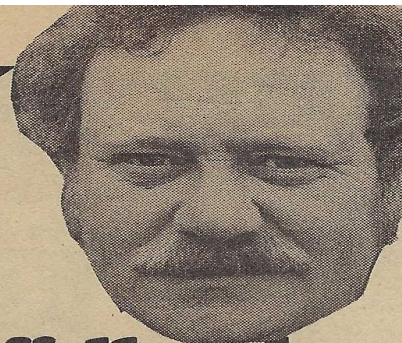
As for the fishing as exoeected it was rock hard with and with my northern buddy and F1 coach Gavin Leversidge next door it was going to be a tough match... after struggling for 2.5hrs I eventually strung some stamp roach together sadly falling 1 fish (40g) short of the much needed section win as expected the end peg took the spoils. This left me on 3 points and tied in 3rd on points but 12th on weight! those 40g would have put me 3rd disappointing but tbh I had two pretty decent matches.. Massive well done to our A team on edging out Dorking and Frankie Gianoncelli Fishing and Will Raison on 1st and 2nd individual. Also thanks to Sensas for running the event!

A few weeks off now to sort all my river gear out and plan for next season! then it's back on the cut for the spring league and some F1 fishing up Redhill!



Follow

# FRANK BARLOW



the biggest name in the Midlands

## JINXED TO THE LAST

THE last week of the season saw me booked in for three matches in the last four days – and I was due to fish a Close Season pole match on a Lincolnshire stillwater, on the Sunday. Phew!

First off was a City Transport AC match on the Newark Dyke at Hudson's Bay. My dad always used to

take me on this one as a nipper and I wouldn't miss it for the world.

**STAY WITH THE MAIL—  
everything else is second best**

### PIPPED AGAIN

ON the following day I was back to the Higgin for another of "Rip-offs" midweek Opens with over 100 pegs and the river in excellent condition.

I wanted a peg on the Manvers Straight but out came No. 19 – not much form but could be good for a few, I thought.

A stick float rig, 22 hook and single maggot got me off to a flying start with roach, small chub and skimmers coming steadily for the first two hours. Then for some reason the flow eased up, a strong upstream wind blew and the fish went off.

I finished with 10 lb 2 oz and was just pipped for the section by a chap on the last peg who had 12 chub on waspgrub for 10 lb 4 oz, to keep my jinx on this water going.

#### MAIL

● ONE of South Wales' best known angling administrators, Cwmbran AA president Dennis Alexander, has died after a long illness. He was 57. Dennis, who lived at Croesycerog, was an accomplished match angler and a former Welsh National Champion. Just before he died he helped his club take over a prime stretch of the River Monnow.

BOX

I drew on the straight above the bay, the same peg at which I'd won a match in the summer with over 10 lb of quality roach, but it was a bit different this time with very cold water and a heavy flow.

After an hour on the float for two small roach, I switched to the straight lead, using one of the new Shakespeare President quiver rods, which come in 9ft and 11ft lengths.

The longer one did the trick and I connected with a 1 lb chub and two big roach of 1 lb 7 oz and 1 lb 3 oz in the first hour of using it. The venue switched off for the last three hours during

which no one had a chance of resulting in a very tight finish.

I came fourth with 11 lb 1 oz, a pound more won the match and there were other weights over 5 lb. I was below par fishing, usually very productive venue but an enjoyable one nonetheless.

### NECK AND NECK

THE LAST DAY and back to the Higgin, with the Trent still in peak condition. I still fancied the straight, but drew 65, two below the gate, and found the in-form Jim Baxter on 66 and the irrepressible Tom Pickering on 67. Looked like being a cracker!

This is a very deep area and a win from it is not usually on the cards but both Jim and I got off to flyers, I was catching small fish every chuck and Jim was getting better quality fish for some reason.

It was neck and neck for a while then my peg dried up and Jim went on catching. I switched to the straight lead and that brought me back in contention with skimmers coming consistently.

With five minutes to go

Jim latched into a good fish and carefully played out a 2 lb bream, ahead of my 10 lb 3 oz for second spot. So my jinx didn't desert me right to the end of the season.

The Manvers Straight I wanted to draw produced the winner – 21 lb to my old pal Roy Henson.

Then it was off to the pub to see out the season in style – which we did.

On the first Sunday of the Close Season, I was down to fish the pole match on this stillwater in Lincolnshire where out-of-season fishing is allowed.

But blow me, when we arrived we found that the venue had been double booked and was occupied by a load of schoolkids. So, a bit disgruntled we headed home, but we'll be back next week.

### A LIK

CHRIS CHESTERS has with his haul of silver further boosts a collection of Junior National trophies. He won the NFA title on the fifth team title. Leicester manager England juniors' boys youngsters – the Be

## Tough test

FIFTEEN-year-old Ju Bird from Cardiff put in a good performance in a tough Cardiff SAA competition on the city's forest when he caught two floggers for 14 oz to finish third in a strong field.

### Striker

THIS month's lucky Striker is 570, 32, 295, 171, 484, 401, 338, 222, 134, 55. You can win the two spot in the Leisure Sport Angling League, Surrey.





The Shropshire Union Canal will host hundreds of young anglers, prepared to showcase their fishing skills at this September's National Celebration, all hoping to win the prized Guru gudgeon mug.

As the UK's largest fishing participation event for young people, it presents a wonderful opportunity for anglers to engage in friendly fun competition and build lasting memories and friendships.

Everyone who participates will take home a medal or trophy, a goody bag and special event certificate. And if you are skilful enough to land a gudgeon, a special 2024 edition gudgeon mug will be yours to keep.

Winning a special prize or being crowned champion would of course be a dream come true, but taking part in this unique occasion is something that every young person aged between 7 and 20 is now able to do. Let's Fish! is there to help each and every one of you along your journey to the celebration.

**Age categories at the Celebration:**

Cadets (aged 7 to 10 years on the day of the event, 6 years olds many participate if they have an elder sibling also participating)

Young juniors (aged 11 and 12 on the day of the event)

Full juniors (aged 13 to 15 on the day of the event)

Experienced youth (aged 16 to 20 on the day of the event)

Developing youth (this category, new for 2024 is designed for new anglers ages 16-20 who have limited or no experience with events of this type)

Discover more about the National Celebration and secure your tickets here: <https://ow.ly/iaep50R1W4C>



# Tackle in Focus

## New Hair-Rig Maggot Caster tool

Hair rigs have become very popular over the years especially with commercial fishing. Hair rigs allow more of a natural presentation rather than fixed on a static hook. A hair rig allows the bait to act more freely away from the hook, when a fish takes the bait then it is much more easily taken into the mouth of the fish.

This new caster baiting tool is ideal.

Basically it makes banding casters or maggots both quick and easy. Something which when fishing shallow can make all the difference



## Special Mix Groundbait

A combination of various mixes that can attract all species of fish into the swim

If your not sure what's in your swim then this mix maybe the answer.

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# Matchman

## The Additive Catch

**I** WONDER if anglers are taking this additive craze a little bit too far? I was over in England a few months ago and every tackle shop I went into had more groundbaits, additives and flavourings on their shelves than they had fishing tackle.

As far back as I can remember from my early days on the match circuit, anglers have been striving to find a "secret" groundbait or hookbait that would put them one up on all their opponents and enable them to walk off with all the prize money.

I remember quite vividly my first encounter with this facet of match fishing. I had fished at club level with a reasonable amount of success and decided to spread my wings out into the open match circuit. It was nothing like the big opens we have today. Only about one in ten anglers owned a car, and a trip down to the Trent or Severn from Manchester was a once or twice a year job on the club coach.

The nearest river of any note that staged big open matches was the River Weaver around Northwich, and this was the venue I chose for my first "big-un". I order to make it to the draw, which was at 9.30a.m., the alarm was set for 5a.m. The first bus to the city centre was at 6a.m., and then a dash across town to get the train to Northwich, the 7.15a.m. "workman's special". I arrived at Hartford station around nine and then had a mile trudge to the river and match headquarters. Luckily, we didn't have to carry the gear around that we need today!

The match in question was the Abalour Shield, an annual event that attracted all the big guns from Lancashire and Cheshire. After standing in the queue for about twenty minutes I reached the draw bag and handed over my five bob, or whatever it was, only to find that amount only covered the entrance fee.

There was also three optional pools and a section pool on top of that. I dug into my pocket,

**by Harold Pattison**

deducted my homeward bus fare and the remainder left enough to enter the lesser of the three pools and the section pool. I drew my peg number and was just about to walk away when the steward called me back and informed me I was sixpence short. I was explaining I only had my bus fare when the angler behind threw a sixpence onto the table. I have met that angler many times since that day, but somehow I've not got round to mentioning it to him. It was the old maestro himself, Benny Ashurst.

After thanking him I walked over to the map to see where I had drawn, and drew a sigh of relief when I found I had only a five minute walk to the pegs just below Hartford Bridge.

Other anglers were also checking on which section they

had drawn and a group of half a dozen anglers behind me were discussing how each of them should fish their pegs. I didn't get the full gist of the conversation but one of them was adamant that if so and so didn't turn up with "the bait" he wasn't going to fish. "Waste of time without it". "We'll get hammered", etc. etc.

After tackling up at my peg there was still about half an hour before the off, so I walked over to the angler in the upstream peg and asked him if we had any chance in that area. "Rubbish", he said. "Tha needs to be ont locks to catch owt, that's only fishin for't section ont bridge pegs".

Great, just the news I needed for my first bash at the big time,

so it was back to my peg to get ready for the off. On the whistle I put in a few white maggots down the side along with two small balls of groundbait and a few pinkies.

I'd been fishing about ten minutes when one of the anglers who wasn't going to fish without "the bait" came and plonked his basket on the empty downstream peg.

Half an hour into the match I hadn't had a bite, let alone a fish, and as far as I could see in both directions, nobody else had. Nobody except the angler in the downstream peg that is. He had just popped his fourth nice roach into his net. By the halfway stage we were all still struggling. I'd had nine little gudgeon on pinkies and as far as I could tell the angler below me was the only other catching. He'd had about 3 pounds of fish.

At the weigh-in he finished up with just over five pounds and came third overall. I had just over twelve ounces and came section second. If he hadn't been in sight of me I would have felt quite pleased with myself but having heard the conversation at the draw, and then seeing him pulling out quality roach at the next peg, I knew whatever "the bait" was it was much more attractive to the roach than my plain whites and pinkies.

A few months later my sister asked me to cycle over to her new boy friend's house to deliver a note for her. When I arrived he was busy digging in the garden and chatting away





with the bloke next door. Straight away I recognised the neighbour to be one of the group of anglers who had given me such a thrashing on that first open. After handing over the note I enquired who was going fishing, pointing to the keepnet hanging over the fence (as if I didn't know). Right from the off I realised he was a bit of a know-all and I worked the conversation round to a club match I would be going to on the Weaver, and asked him if he had ever fished it.

"Anatto's" he said. "Waste of time without them. Feed yellow pinkies in groundbait and sand, and fish a single anatto on the hook, but keep it to yourself."

I could hardly wait for the next match on the Weaver. I went with the best home bred anattos you'd see anywhere. Well, I thought they were the best. I fished three hours without so much as a bite. It was lashing with rain and nobody else was catching either. I decided to call it a day, packed up and headed off back towards Hartford bridge and home.

Between my peg and the bridge I must have passed about sixty anglers who must have delivered notes to my sister's boy friend! Nearly every one of them had a bait tin full of anattos and bait buckets filled with yellow pinkies...

But that was many years ago and baits have come and baits have gone. There was the caster craze, then the bronze maggot era, the hush, hush, reds, and last year the bluebottle green.

The Einsteins of the floppy hat brigade have not stood idle either. They will go to any lengths to concoct a secret formula, and although they have gone a long way into the developments of new techniques and baits I personally think a lot of what they write about is a load of cobblers. You would need a BA in Crapology to understand half of the stuff they write about.

But it's the commercialisation of some of the additives and concentrates that really prompted this article. You only have to look down the list of additives to realise some of the well known names are cashing in on their success, having us believe that by using a product with their endorsement, newcomers to the game will come up trumps and hit the headlines every week.

What young anglers must realise is that fishing is no different to any other sport. There are no short cuts to success. You do not become a John McEnroe by using the racket he endorses, nor do you become a Steve Davis using his brand of cue.

You see the pictures in the press of these anglers cradling huge fish and picture yourself doing likewise, but what the caption does not tell you is the number of days, hours, or even weeks the angler has put in to catch them. They are, in the main, dedicated anglers, fanatics to say the least, who know the game inside out.

It is the same story with the top



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match anglers. You see their names cropping up time and time again. Most of them are sponsored and fish three or sometimes four competitions a week. They live and breath fishing and could whop the backside off the average match angler with nothing more than a tin of worms and a bent pin.

And let's face it, if you discovered a bait that fish found irresistible, that enabled you to win match after match, pull specimens out by the dozen, would you tell the world about it?

No, you wouldn't, and neither would the anglers who are cashing in on these products. If they are on sale to the public in general, you can bet your life there is nothing magic about them.

The only attraction they do have, and I'm fully convinced of this, is that they offer the fish a bait that is different to what they have become suspicious of. The same situation occurs in match fishing on heavily fished waters. An angler starts winning week after week on a certain bait. The word gets around and within a couple of seasons the angler and the bait have taken a back seat. Another angler, and different bait, comes on the scene and history repeats itself.

I hope by what I have tried to explain that I have not given the impression that additives are a waste of time and should be ignored completely; far from it. What I am saying is not to go overboard. Keep them in the right perspective. It is very easy to be taken in by all this scientific gobbledegook and become so engrossed in it you overlook the necessary aspects of the sport.

There is no additive in the world that will catch you more fish unless you know how to present it properly and, even more important, know where to put it.

A prime example is the way the top continental match anglers have mastered the art of using bloodworm and jokers. This combination must be one of the deadliest baits so far discovered for winning matches, under certain conditions, but if you gave the average match angler half a gallon of each, unless he knew how and when to use them he would get hammered out of sight by a knowledgeable angler using half a pint of each at the next peg.

So before you go spending a small fortune in the search for a "magic" attractor, stick to the old-fashioned baits like maggots, casters, bread and worms. Learn how to use them and how to present them, and that alone will put more fish in your net than all the additives on your tackle shop shelf. ■





# Jon Arthur Match Reports

Been catching mostly F1s this weekend. Saturday I fished the one-off March Teams-of-3 at Tunnel Barn with Sam Collett and Jamie Adcock. There were 17 teams and they paid the top 5 on weight. Our trio took the last prize with a 200lb total. Well done the Guru Preston team of James Howarth, Connor Barlow and Sam Slockett who won with 236lb. Also well done Dan Lee who was top weight with 103lb from House 16.

I had a busy day catching 62lb of mostly small F1s on Extension 25. Can't believe how cold it was with sleet chilling the lakes (and bones!). After 90 minutes I had to go back to the van for some gloves as it was chuffin' freezing!

Today yet another hard frost and thick fog on the way to Packington. It was the final round of the Winter League with 57 anglers fishing. I was guesting for Phil Canning as he was on a stand at The Big One.

I drew peg 15 on Little Gearys which is usually in my top five pegs to draw on there, but felt it could be a hard day as I crunched through all the frozen puddles on the way to the peg.

Managed four F1s on the long pole and pellet and four on a little open alloy feeder but when the sun's come out(!) you could tell they'd switched right off. I scratched around with some skimmers short on maggots before finally locating some nice big F1s and one bonus carp down the side on pellets, corn and maggots.

It's been a bit sit-and-waity all day but the fish have been worth catching. I've ended up with a very pleasing 73lb, which was enough to win the lake. Back at the presentation I was told I'd won the match, ahead of two 69lbs and a 64lb. Well chuffed with that! A big well done to Paul Truman for winning the league and all the other framers. Just need Spring to hurry up and properly arrive now!



**A freeze frame from my latest Channel Members film, shot last week on a rapidly rising River Thames. Great day... in between all the rain showers! I've also got another film in the pipelines for my main channel, filmed on the last day of the season, so watch this space for that one!**



8th March

Been on the official practice match for the Angling Trust Zerofit Silverfish Final at Barston Lakes today. Had a busy day catching just over 70lb of skimmers for a section win and 4th in the match. Kristian Jones has had an amazing 99lb of skimmers for the win and Sam Collett was 2nd with 85lb on the opposite bank. Hopefully I can draw another good area on the big day tomorrow!



9th March

It was the Angling Trust Zerofit Silverfish Final at Barston Lakes today and I've drawn my thousandth end peg of the year. The rather famous peg 124, arguably the best carp peg in the Midlands. I hoped the skimmers liked it there too!

This peg wasn't put in on the practice match yesterday, so although we all fancied it no one quite knew what to expect. I certainly ran to it, grinning from ear to ear, but upon arrival I wasn't quite so sure. It looked a little bit too tight into the corner for catching a winning weight of skimmers, but I'd soon find out...

Despite feeling really confident with my rigs and tactics it took forever to get my first bite. Just four little skimmers after an hour was not a good sign...

Firing up a new swim in front of peg 123 brought some more fish. All match I wished I was sat on that peg instead. By now the skimmers were a good size, however, just not coming out quite fast enough.

Ligging on with maggot over Sonubaits F1 Original and Crushed Expander was the only way I could get a bite. Surprisingly only hooked a couple of carp. Hundreds were rolling in the middle of the lake, though, so I'm glad they stayed there!

After feeling like I'd just very slowly plodded along all day with the wind in my chops I was quite surprised to see my fish go 44lb 12oz on the scales. Nowhere near as many fish as yesterday's 70lb effort but three times bigger. So, all in all a good days fishing and a tidy weight of skimmers, that could have won many normal silverfish matches. But this is Barston and you needed 56lb to make the top five. What a venue!

A very big well done to Steve Hemingray winning the £5k jackpot with 68lb. A very worthy Silverfish Champion!

So that finally rounds off a pretty good silverfish season for me. Now there's hopefully just enough time to get back on the river before I dust off the shallow rigs!



16th March

Fished the last Golden Rod feeder qualifier of the year today at Larford. I've had a cracking day catching 70lb 10oz of bream and skimmers from the middle of the chalet bank of Speci Lake. Just 82lb won my 20-peg zone, so I just needed one decent, but very elusive, carp to see me over the line, but alas it was not to be. Still can't grumble at over 70lb of silvers on the feeder in March!

Gearwise I used an 11ft Horizon Pro Commercial Feeder all day, matched with an ultra smooth HX Pro 4000 reel loaded with 8lb XD Mono. For bait I used Sonubaits Washed Out Bandums, pellets and corn over fishery micros glugged in my favourite Washed Out Bait Booster.

A big well done Adam Rooney on winning with a big 245lb and Alex Walker and Sam Brown for also qualifying with 82lb and 96lb zone-winning weights.



MEGA MATCH THIS					
"MEGA MATCH THIS" WEIGH SHEET 2023					
VENUE:- TUNNEL BARN FARM			DATE:- 24TH MARCH 2024		
PEG No.	LAKE NAME	COMPETITOR NAME	LBS	OZS	COMPETITOR SIGNATURE
1	EXTENSION	FRANCIS O'REILLY	58	4	
3	EXTENSION	JAMIE HUGHES	95	0	
5	EXTENSION	JEREMY BENSON	58	12	
7	EXTENSION	KRISTIAN JONES	134	10	
9	EXTENSION	PAUL HOLLAND	78	1	
13	EXTENSION	COLIN CAVANAGH	64	11	
17	EXTENSION	MATT WENNINGTON	39	8	
19	EXTENSION	CARK HARVEY	84	11	
21	EXTENSION	MATTY HAMILTON	64	8	
23	EXTENSION	JORDAN HOLLOWAY	138	15	47M
25	EXTENSION	JAMIE COWLING	D N W		
27	EXTENSION	CARL LEE-HOPPS	54	9	
29	EXTENSION	JON ARTHUR	80	10	
35	EXTENSION	AIDEN MANSFIELD	81	0	
38	EXTENSION	CHARLIE LAN	D N W		

Double header at Tunnel Barn at the weekend and two more end pegs(!). Saturday on the big money March match I drew peg 2 on House, which can be great if there's a warm wind blowing that way, so went there full of optimism. Sadly it was bitterly cold with multiple hailstorms and the clearest I've seen the lake! I had 60lb which was the best weight down our end but Rich Boardman paralysed the section with 120lb off House 6. I hoped to catch on meat but could only get bites on maggots. Seemed like you had to be on a few for the spam to work its magic. Well done Andy Bennett winning with 150lb off Extension 23. Next day was the first match of qualifier season for me, starting with the Maver Match This. A bit disappointed to draw peg 29 on Extension as it's a few pegs too far up and usually full of runts, but at least I had some room and was out of the wind.

Once again I could only catch on maggots and despite lashing them in I couldn't get any bites shallow. Still had a busy day catching loads of little F1s and about 30lb of lovely dark skimmers for 80lb 10oz. Needed just another 6oz to win the section, but that honour went to Aid Mansfield on peg 35! Jordan won our lake with 138lb off Extension 23 again. A very big well done to Bradley Gibbons qualifying with 150lb off Canal 11.

So two decent days fishing but never really felt I was in a winning area. Back there next Saturday for the Fisho and hoping to draw a bung hole full of big carp and F1s!



# Sensas Challenge 2024

The Sensas UK Final took place on March 24th and 25th on the Gloucester Canal. At the end of the two rounds, victory went to Team Sensas Starlets A made up of Darran Bickerton, Sean Ashby, Steve Hemingray, Cameron Hughes and Mark Downes.



## INTERVIEW WITH MARK DOWNS

**Mark Downes:** “ After spending two days training, we quickly realized that the fishing was going to be very difficult. There were good sectors but also more difficult ones. It is for this reason that we have decided to adopt a cautious approach in certain sectors. Our strategy was as follows. We decided to make a shot between 5 and 7 m depending on the water depth, placing only two balls of groundbait with 30 ml of mess in the cup. This groundbait was composed of Sensas 3000 Gros Gardons Fine Mouture and Sensas 3000 Canal noire. We added as much black Somme soil as primer. We did the same thing at 11m except we dropped 4 balls of groundbait into the cup with 100ml of clutter.

We also dropped 4 balls with 100ml of clutter at 12.5m. We also added cut earthworms and dead pinkies and sticky Somme soil. The erratic wind could carry the fish further offshore and we also noticed that the fish could hold behind the bait.

The strategy described above applied to the most difficult sectors. For less difficult sectors, we applied the same strategy by making 3 shots except that we doubled the quantities of primer used.

We started by fishing between 5 and 7 m depending on the sector (this depended on the depth of water we had at this distance depending on the sector), then, when there were no more bites, we then left for the 11 m shot and when this was off, we set off on the furthest shot at 12.5 m. A small pellet in the cup every 15 minutes allowed the action to be reactivated.

On the most difficult sectors, we did not do badly with the following results over the two days: 1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3; over both days, which I think helped us win the competition.

It was a great event and everyone enjoyed it despite the difficult fishing. Everyone is already waiting for next year's edition, hoping this time that there will be more fish there! »





NAME	TEAM	DAY1 PEG	DAY 1 WEIGHT	DAY1 PTS	DAY2 PEG	DAY2 WEIGHT	DAY2 PTS	Total PTS	Total Weight	Final Ranking
Frankie Giononcelli	Barnsley Drennan....A	D14	7000	1	E29	3040	1	2	10040	1
William Raison	Dorking Daiwa Blue	A22	2210	1	B32	1940	1	2	4150	2
Ian Leach	Wales Matrix Waynes	B09	8170	1	D05	10505	2	3	18675	3
Lewis Bray	Dorking Daiwa Red	E23	2530	2	D04	11740	1	3	14270	4
John Price	Tackle and Bates	D01	7516	1	B09	4000	2	3	11516	5
Alexandre Caudin	Sensas 28	D03	4619	2	B19	5920	1	3	10539	6
Josh Newman	Barnsley Drennan...B	A31	1500	1	B17	5890	2	3	7390	7
Matt Powell	Wales Matrix Waynes	D26	1310	2	B11	4320	1	3	5630	8
Matt Godfrey	Barnsley Drennan....A	B26	2775	1	C14	2150	2	3	4925	9
Phil Bendall	DGL Red	C11	2050	2	A03	2450	1	3	4500	10
Ade Whittle	Sensas Starlets C	E24	2620	1	A15	1040	2	3	3660	11
Andy Cranston	Dorking Daiwa Blue	E22	1631	1	E08	88	2	3	1719	12
Jack Jones	Dorking Daiwa Blue	D20	3675	3	C07	2150	1	4	5825	13
Sean Ashby	Sensas Starlets A	D11	3412	3	E17	920	1	4	4332	14
Das Bickerton	Sensas Starlets A	B24	1425	3	A24	1020	1	4	2445	15
Carl Steffan	Trentmen Colmic	C20	1670	1	A18	760	3	4	2430	16
Tom Norton	Barnsley Drennan...B	D23	2360	1	C10	1550	3,5	4,5	3910	17
Steve Hemmingray	Sensas Starlets A	E06	161	1	D32	4	3,5	4,5	165	18
Paul Isaacs	Thatchers	B22	4350	2	B08	3820	3	5	8170	19
Charlie Robinson	Drennan Bordon	C10	1900	3	B30	1620	2	5	3520	20
Bryan Hawkes	Sensas Starlets B	C22	1280	4	D24	160	1	5	1440	21
Lee Kerry	Barnsley Drennan....A	A02	3050	1	B15	1680	4,5	5,5	4730	22
Dan Abbott	Hotrods Sensas Green	B11	7875	2	B10	2520	4	6	10395	23
James Thomas	Wales Academy	A01	1070	3	D21	3392	3	6	4462	24
Olivier Defrocourt	Sensas 28	E33	2390	3	A29	580	3	6	2970	25



# Sensas 2014 Top 7 Result Sheet

TEAM	NAME	PEG DAY1	PEG DAY2	WEIGHT DAY1	PTS DAY1	WEIGHT DAY2	PTS DAY2	TOTAL PTS	TOTAL WEIGHT	RANK
Sensas Starlets A	Das Bickerton	B24	A24	1425	3	1020	1	4	2445	
	Mark Downes	A20	B07	1110	2	460	6	8	1570	
	Sean Ashby	D11	E17	3412	3	920	1	4	4332	
	Steve Hemmingray	E06	D32	161	1	4	3,5	4,5	165	
	Cameron Hughes	C33	C21	3050	1	1250	7	8	4300	
				9158	10	3654	18,5	28,5	12812	1
Dorking Daiwa Blue	Alex Clements	B25	A07	1950	2	325	9	11	2275	
	Andy Cranston	E22	E08	1631	1	88	2	3	1719	
	Jack Jones	D20	C07	3675	3	2150	1	4	5825	
	Simon Willsmore	C01	D30	2650	1	0	8	9	2650	
	William Raison	A22	B32	2210	1	1940	1	2	4150	
				12116	8	4503	21	29	16619	2
Barnsley Drennan....A	Frankie Giononcelli	D14	E29	7000	1	3040	1	2	10040	
	James Dent	C27	A11	2550	2	475	7,5	9,5	3025	
	Lee Kerry	A02	B15	3050	1	1680	4,5	5,5	4730	
	Matt Godfrey	B26	C14	2775	1	2150	2	3	4925	
	Oliver Scotthorne	E15	D29	637	3	0	8	11	637	
				16012	8	7345	23	31	23357	3
Barnsley Drennan...B	Gavin Leversidge	B20	A14	3050	5	710	4	9	3760	
	Josh Newman	A31	B17	1500	1	5890	2	3	7390	
	Nick Crooks	C24	E10	1560	5	30	3,5	8,5	1590	
	Tom Barlow	E01	D17	0	8,5	3843	2	10,5	3843	
	Tom Norton	D23	C10	2360	1	1550	3,5	4,5	3910	
				8470	20,5	12023	15	35,5	20493	4
Wales Matrix Waynes	Ben Roberts	E09	A08	4	5	475	7,5	12,5	479	
	Darran Frost	C13	E19	1350	2	50	5	7	1400	
	Ian Leach	B09	D05	8170	1	10505	2	3	18675	
	John Brogden	A13	C17	1050	3	1150	9	12	2200	
	Matt Powell	D26	B11	1310	2	4320	1	3	5630	
				11884	13	16500	24,5	37,5	28384	5
Sensas 28	Alain Dewimille	A33	D08	650	4	2775	7	11	3425	
	Alexandre Caudin	D03	B19	4619	2	5920	1	3	10539	
	Mathieu Vilain	C15	C04	1020	5	730	8	13	1750	
	Maxime Duchesne	B14	E11	250	10	191	1	11	441	
	Olivier Defrocourt	E33	A29	2390	3	580	3	6	2970	
				8929	24	10196	20	44	19125	6
Sensas Starlets B	Ade Higginbottom	B21	A27	3120	4	180	5	9	3300	
	Bryan Hawkes	C22	D24	1280	4	160	1	5	1440	
	John Freeborn	A28	B05	1250	2	1120	5	7	2370	
	Nigel Evans	D22	E18	2775	5	180	3	8	2955	
	Chris Jones	E03	C05	0	8,5	650	9	17,5	650	
				8425	23,5	2290	23	46,5	10715	7



# MAGIC BAITS

# MOV MIXT



Ian taking part in the 1983 World Championships in Holland where he learnt a lot about groundbaits.

**LESSONS** learnt from taking part in 11 World Championships have convinced England star Ian Heaps of the importance of what he terms "physically working" groundbaits.

"By this I mean groundbaits that don't lie inert on the river or lake bed when thrown in, but work all the time to attract fish by their actual physical movement and smell," he explained.

"When I first started taking part in World Championships I was amazed by the amount of groundbait the Continentals were throwing in, and still catching fish.

"By being a regular in England's World team I was able to dig deeper into what they were trying to achieve and eventually uncovered some of their groundbait secrets. It is those I have tried to copy in my groundbait recipes," said Ian.

At the basis of all Ian's recipes is

brown sliced crumb, finely ground from discarded crusts obtained from the bakers. These are full of oils which break it up quickly once thrown in.

Another vital ingredient is Katch, a ground-hemp bait which also contains other roots and seeds which are attractive to fish, particularly roach and bream.

The oils in the hemp and other seeds cause them to rise and fall from the bed of the river when mixed in with Ian's other ingredients.

For canals and shallow waters, Ian recommends a light, cloudy mix for fishing on the drop, either just under the surface or at midwater.

The different depths are achieved by having two mixes – wet and dry. The wet mix is for near-surface fishing and makes an immediate fish-attracting cloud on impact with the water.

The dry mix is squeezed harder to allow the ball of groundbait to penetrate to midwater before exploding.

For both mixes Ian takes the basic ingredients (see *RECIPE 1*) and mixes them in the proportions recommended.

If he is mixing up several pounds of groundbait, four parts will be brown sliced crumb, four parts Kestrel, 2½ parts Katch and two parts of Cosmic Cloud.

Ian chooses the Kestrel groundbait to match the colour of his hookbait, yellow for yellow maggots, red for red maggots and so

## Recipe 1

### Ian's groundbait recipe for canals

Contents	Measure	Purpose
Cosmic Cloud	2	To make a fine attractive cloud.
Brown crumb	4	Carrying agent and to help groundbait break up.
Kestrel (of varying colours)	4	Select the same colour as the hookbait.
Katch	2½	Ground hemp and attractors to keep ground bait actively working.



## Recipe 2

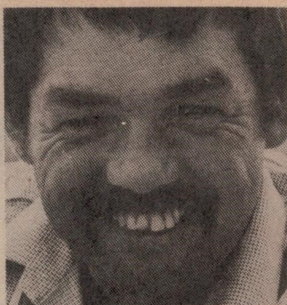
### Ian's groundbait recipe for swimfeeders

Contents	Measure	Purpose
Brown crumb	2	Carrying agent and to help break groundbait
Katch	4	Ground hemp and attractors to keep groundbait actively working and attract fish.
Dick Clegg Special	1	A special groundbait full of powerful scents and attractors.
Contest	1	Soluble sweeteners, particularly for bream.





# NG URES



**ENGLAND star Ian Heaps this week describes his groundbait recipes for a variety of waters**

on. He then sieves all the ingredients through a one-eighth of an inch pinkie sieve, and adds water gradually to the sieved mix until it is just damp. He then sieves the damp mix again.

Sieving groundbait is very important because it breaks up the ingredients, ridding them of any lumps, and also adds air to the mix.

The sieved damp mix can be used as the dry groundbait for midwater fishing, and the harder each ball is squeezed the deeper it fishes.

Ian then adds further water to the dry mix until it is saturated but will stay together to make the wet mix.

He rates both mixes as excellent for use on canals such as the Oxford, Coventry and Grand Union and has had good results on all three while using them.

For swimfeeder fishing (see *RECIPE 2*) on stillwaters or steadily flowing rivers Ian relies on a dry mix which explodes from the feeder on hitting bottom, depositing bait samples and attractors around the hookbait.

It consists of two parts brown sliced crumb, four parts Katch, one part Dick Clegg Special and one part Contest, a special sweet attractor for bream.

Again, all the ingredients are sieved thoroughly while still dry and then water is added gradually. "Forget what you have learnt about mixing groundbait and putting the water into your bowl first. With these new Continental groundbaits it is not the right way because they absorb so much water," said Ian.

"It is also vital to have the right kind of groundbait mixing bowl. It must be shallow with a large surface area — one of the new tray types is best."

The almost dry mix is made just damp enough to hold in the feeder and Ian has devised a method of fishing it on the drop with notable success.

"I fish it with a 4ft. tail and when I've worked out the depth I allow the feeder to sink until it is four feet off the bottom and then give it a quick snatch to empty it," said Ian.

"That means that my hookbait falls for the last four feet through a very attractive cloud of particles which fish home in on. It works like

magic," he added.

The feeder mix is 50 per cent Katch which has proved very attractive to bigger roach and bream and the Contest bream attractor increases its potency for that species.

Katch is a major ingredient, along with the brown sliced crumb, in Ian's groundbait for lakes, and helps to keep it physically working in the swim. (See *RECIPE 3*.)

A crucial ingredient of the lake mix is vanilla, a proven bream attractor which the German anglers, particularly Wolfgang Kremkus, swear by.

Ian will even take the sweetness factor a step further by adding dextrose sugar to the mix.

He sieves the mix thoroughly using a caster sieve in the dry stage to completely intermingle the ingredients, adding water sparingly until the mix is just damp, and then sieving it again.

The mix should then be just right for launching by hand or catapult. It will not break up in the air but will explode from midwater down to the bottom, laying an attractive cloud and bed of bait.

Included in this recipe is Tima Challenger, an imported French additive with proven attracting qualities for roach, bream and gudgeon, and Dick Clegg's special groundbait, also with proven additives.

Ian recommends an initial feeding spell of eight tangerine size balls, topped up with a ball every 5–15 minutes depending on bites to keep the active ingredients rising from and falling to the bottom.

The basic ingredients of Ian's river mix (see *RECIPE 4*) are Tima Masters, a heavy Continental groundbait for binding and making the mix heavy so that it sinks to the bottom, and brown sliced crumb to help it break up when it reaches there.

Katch is again used to make it more attractive to better quality fish and the groundbait balls are squeezed according to the depth and pace of the current — hard for deeper, swifter rivers, more gently for shallower or slower moving waters.

Ian feeds this mix on a little-and-often basis, putting in a golf ball sized offering every trot down.

## Recipe 3

### Ian's groundbait recipe for lakes

Contents	Measure	Purpose
Cosmic cloud	½	To make a fine, attractive cloud.
Brown crumb	4	Carrying agent and to help groundbait break up.
Katch	2½	Ground hemp and attractors to keep groundbait actively working.
Dick Clegg Special	½	A special groundbait designed by Dick Clegg
Tima Challenger	½	A secret French attractor.
Kestrel (varying colours)	2	Select the same colours as the hookbait.
Vanilla	3 tbl/spns	Sweet flavour for bream fishing.



## Recipe 4

### Ian's groundbait recipe for rivers

Contents	Measure	Purpose
Brown crumb	3	Carrying agent and to help groundbait break up.
Tima Master's	3	For binding and to add particle attractors and sweet soluble additives.
Katch	1½	Ground hemp and attractors to keep groundbait actively working.
Kestrel (varying colours)	2	Select the same colour as the hookbait.





## ENGLAND SQUADS NAMED FOR NATIONS & EUROS 2024



**ENGLAND** manager Mark Downes has selected his squads for the 2024 World and European Championships this week and is looking to build on the success of last year's events.

In 2023 the squad staged an incredible second day charge which saw them earn team silver and both silver and bronze individual medals at the Worlds in Spain.

Captain William Raison also claimed the individual silver at the 2023 Euros with the team just a couple of fish shy of a bronze medal too.

This year England will travel to our continental neighbours France and The Netherlands for the two big events.

Heading to The Netherlands in June to take on Europe's best will be England captain William Raison, plus Simon Willsmore, Sean Ashby, James Dent, Matt Godfrey, and Cam Hughes.

William will also lead the team out at the World Championship in Bethune, northern France in September as England look to build on their recent form. The squad will be the same as that which won silver in Spain last year with Steve Hemingray, Sean Ashby, James Dent, Matt Godfrey, and Cam Hughes.

"For the first time in as long as I can remember both the World and Euros are on north western Europe's canal systems... but both are totally different," revealed Mark, who will be supported by a team of backroom staff led by Assistant Manager Darran Bickerton.



**“The Euros are on the Princess Margaret Canal in the north of Holland near Spannenberg and it looks to be a good venue with skimmers and bream providing the bulk of the catches.**

**“It’s a little early in the season though, and the fish may not have returned to the venue in large numbers after spawning. Long and short pole will be the only methods here, and the size of bream caught will be the deciding factor.”**

**The World Champs venue is a little closer to home – just an hour south of Calais – and many of the squad have fished it recently.**

**“Most of the squad fished the venue at Bethune in last year’s European Sensas Challenge final,” Mark confirmed.**

**“It was a reasonable venue with bream and skimmers on the long pole determining the main section points, but gobies will also play a part, especially as the week of practice progresses.**

**“There are many roach here, but they are very difficult to catch. Hopefully with a full week on the venue and an early competition two weeks before, it will give us plenty of time to get the tactics, baits, and feeding sorted.”**

**With both events close to home Mark is expecting a good turnout of England supporters on the bank at each championships.**

**\* Angling Trust members can also take advantage of cut-price ferry deals with DFDS from the UK over to Amsterdam and Calais or Dunkirk as part of their membership.**

**More info here <https://anglingtrust.net/.../discounts-fishing-holidays/...>**

#### **EUROPEAN CHAMPS SQUAD**

**Prinses Margriet Canal, The Netherlands – June 29 & 30**

**William Raison (Captain)**

**Sean Ashby**

**James Dent**

**Matt Godfrey**

**Cam Hughes**

**Simon Willsmore**

#### **NATIONS WORLD CHAMPS SQUAD**

**Bethune, France – September 21 & 22**

**William Raison (Captain)**

**Sean Ashby**

**James Dent**

**Matt Godfrey**

**Steve Hemingray Cam Hughes**

# **England**





# Will Raison Reports

1st March

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,,,I can see why John picked it as the final venue,,,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



2nd March

Open match at Southend farm to-day ,drew peg 6 ,,had a lovely day catching short, and a few long ,,for 96 lb and the match win !!!.

Fed advantage bait's green bream long and F1 advantage bait's with micros and dead maggots,, caught on worms and pellets,,so many fish there for the first two hours,then it went a bit funny,,need to get the long line sorted as this is very important,think I fed to much long at the start ,,,, great day's fishing and definitely learnt a bit for the final ,,, everyone has had a few fish , with Mark Goddard coming second with 70 lb ,,let's hope the good pegs keep coming!!!!!!!!!!





**3rd March**

**Open on syndicate lake today and I drew peg 134 again ,,had a lovely day catching 3 carp on the bomb early,then 2 carp and 45 lb of Skimmers on the pole,, maggots over advantage bait's green bream did the trick again!!!!.**

**Finished with 95 lb for 3 rd in the match and winning the silver pool,,it's fished really well with fish all over the lake !!!!**



**6th March**

**Open match at Southend farm today, drew peg 5 ,next to where I was Saturday,,fished a similar match,but caught more fish long ,,such a good venue,, ended up with 96 lb of Skimmers and bream for 3 rd in the match!!!!**

**9th March**

**Back at Southend farm today for the open match,drew peg 21 Infront of the car park,,,a lovely peg .**

**Caught a few long ,then really well short,all over advantage bait's green bream.**

**Ended up with 89 lb ,which won the day !!!!**





## 16th March

ish south silver fish final today at Southend farm,,drew a nice peg , permanent peg 24 ,,with the temperature rising I had a feeling it might be too deep ,caught a few fish in the first 3 hours,but couldn't catch regularly,,had a fantastic last hour ,to finish with 96 lb , which was second in the match,,, caught really well late over advantage bait's green bream and dead maggots.

Massive well done to Mickey Williams who won the match on peg 1 with an awesome display!!!!.

Great event,, massive thanks to Jon cook for running the event,,,and to everyone at Southend farm,,such a great venue and one of the best silver fish venues I've ever been to!!!!. Had a fantastic day,in great company,,roll on next year,,I'll be trying very hard to get back to Southend farm,,it's that good !!!!!!!



## 23rd March

First day of the sensas final,, managed to win my section with 2.200 kilos ,,canal has fished really hard in areas ,as a team ,we have scored 8 points ,so at the moment we are up there ,,need a good draw tomorrow!!!!

## 24th March

Second day of the sensas final on the Gloucester canal,,I drew peg B32 , which was in the middle of Simms,,had a great start , catching Skimmers and roach ,, really hard the second half of the match ,,ended up with 1.920 kilo ,which won the section!!!.

We finished second as a team , getting beat by starlet's by half a point !!!!!. Individually, I finished second with 2 points, getting beat on weight by Frankie,,well done mate ,great performance!!!!. Thanks to sensas for running a fantastic event,,it's hard fishing,but I love the Gloucester,the first time I fished it in 1989 I fell in love with it ,,yes I've had some bad day's there ,but where don't you,,,roll on next year , maybe we can go one better!!!!





## ENGLAND LADIES SQUAD NAMED FOR 2024 WORLD CHAMPS

Angling Trust England Ladies manager Dave Brooks has selected one of the strongest line ups of anglers ever assembled for the 2024 Ladies Coarse World Champs, following his assessment day at Makins last weekend.

Retaining their places from last year's squad are reigning World Champion Helen Dagnall, plus Samantha Sim, Kayleigh Dowd, May Potter, and Leanne Knott.



They'll be joined by two new anglers earning their first caps for their country in former Ladies National Champ Sarah Taylor, and 2023 National bronze medallist Chloe Raynor.

The England team will be heading over to Portugal in August to take on the searing heat and Mondego River where barbel-like bonga, gudgeon, and barbel will be the target species. It's a venue which has been good to England in the past with team legend Wendy Locker winning individual gold there in the 90s to kick off a medal-laden career.

"The attitude of all the ladies who took part in the assessment day was superb," revealed Dave, who was assisted on the bank by coach Jason Kirk. "We've been keeping an eye on several of the anglers over the winter and it's clear they have been working hard on silverfish matches and leagues to get themselves the skills to get into the squad."

Dave revealed that it was also great to see young anglers coming through with 14-year-old Elle Pedrick the standout performer with the best catch of the day with 31lb of silvers.

"The future is certainly strong, and we'll be working with the younger ones over the next few years to help them make the huge step up from domestic fishing to international level," added Dave.



## ENGLAND MASTERS FEEDER TEAM ASSESSMENT DAY – GET INVOLVED!

The Angling Trust is calling on the best feeder anglers over 55 years of age to apply for an assessment day for the 2024 England Masters Feeder squad.



Team manager Nigel Franks and captain Tom

Pickering are looking for anglers with the right abilities to suit the 2024 competition venues – in Hungary and Belgium – and to further strengthen the team going forward.

The team will be fishing the World Masters Feeder Championship in Hungary on the rowing course in Szeged, travelling out in late September for the event on October 5-6.

Shortly afterwards, the second European Feeder Cup event will take place in Belgium and is currently scheduled for October 14-18. It will be fished on the same venue Dean Barlow's England Feeder team won silver in 2022.

"We're not only looking for the best feeder anglers but also those with the right characteristics to fish at world championship level and the willingness to blend in with the current team members," explained Nigel.

"Both events are self-funded equally by all the team members so you should be aware that cost for each competition could be £1500-£2000/person. Although we do carry out some fund-raising activities which you will be expected to assist with, you will also need to have your own/share transportation."

Due to take place in late May/early June, the location for the assessment day is yet to be set but will be fished to FIPS international feeder rules.

The qualifying age for this year's Masters Feeder squad is 55 years or over on 31 December 2023. Prospective anglers can apply [here](#)...



# NEWS REPORT

## RECORD PIKE CAUGHT



Pending British Pike Record holder Lloyd Watson, captor of the 47 pounds 5 ounce fish from Chew Valley

He told friends

“I’ve been planning this trip with my friend Nick Skirrow for months. It’s my first time on the water and Nick has only fished it briefly. Honestly, I have hardly slept over the past weeks and me and Nick have put in a lot of homework. We studied recent captures of big fish and tried to identify areas that the big fish were coming from. The bush I’m standing next to right now is one of those spots.

Anyway, we both slept in the van last night and we were first out of the blocks this morning, just in front of Ben Humber from Fox.

Tackling up in the dark took a while and we could not clearly see the lake. We are using bait boats to drop the baits off in areas that are likely to attract pike. Bait was a smelt and I added a few chopped herring pieces for extra attraction. Getting the bait positioned was tricky. It was blowing a gale with big waves and as I sat down to sip a brew, dawn just minutes from breaking, I just knew I had to re-position the second bait. It would mean, I knew, sacrificing valuable minutes of fishing at the absolute peak time for these big chew pike - just after dawn.

I risked it anyway, got the bait in the right place and a few minutes later, the re-positioned rod started jumping and I found myself playing a huge pike.

When we got it to the bank I thought that I was looking at an alligator gar! I have been pike fishing for more than 30 years and I have never seen a pike anything like this!”



# Sean Ashby Reports

**2nd March**

**Back to Meadowlands for the 6th league match. Drew 8 on Warren, can be a great area.**

**Started on pellets at 14m and never came off them. 48 skimmers plus 5 roach weighing 36.10 to win the match.**

**Wind in my face all day. Freezing it was!**

**Fished a 0.3 Basey to a 14 pellet hook.**

**Even better Cam was second with 25lb!!**

**With Steve Hemm third it was a hotdogs 123.**



**Finished with 64.04 to win the match and somehow overtook Steve to take the league by a pound from fellow hotdogs Wako who had 51lb on my lake.**



**16th March**

**After last week's disappointing day at Barston for the AT Silvers final where I never had a bite I was at Ryecroft for the final round of the Drennan silvers lge. I was 5th overall going into the match over 30lb behind the leader Steve Winters. I thought a peg on Carp lake would give me a chance to finish well up in the frame. Carp lake 16 stuck to my hand. Absolutely a great peg on its day. Started long with pellets catching around 15lb before it died after 90 minutes, tried to catch shallow but only odd fish. Came into 6m with just over 2hrs to go, caught odd skimmers before it went mad. Caught big bream until last 45 mins, then nothing until last 10mins when I caught another 8 lb.**



**24th March**

Just got back from a very tough Sensas Challenge on the Gloucester canal. The venue fished a lot harder than in previous years with a cold wind a factor.

Day 1 I was at Castle 376 past the bay. started well catching some small skimmers and roach at 8m before it died. Struggled then with just odd bites at 13m to end with 3.410 which was 3rd beaten by the end peg and Alex Caudin who had a bream and lots of small roach. The team managed 10 pts on the day to come 3rd behind Dorking and Barnsley on 8.

Day 2 was at the dreaded Slimbridge which had been terrible with several dry nets, I was 6 pegs down

from the entrance so thought I had a chance of a few fish. Caught a tiny ruffle after 10 mins then no more bites until the 3rd hour when I suddenly started catching tiny roach, It started to fade and I never had a bite last 45 mins. Finished with 20 odd fish for 920g to win the section.

The rest of the team had done brilliant to score 18.5 pts and just pipped Dorking by half a point.

Well done to Frankie on the individual win, outstanding performance.

Final round of the Sivers lge at Meadowlands today. Drew 44 on the pump bank. Was relatively happy until I saw Cam Hughes was on the end peg 43!!!

Started and finished on the 7m line feeding 3 pts of casters plus worms and groundbait (power green and sweet magic) with a strung out 0.6 rig. Caught mostly roach with 2 bream to weigh 42.8 which was 2nd in section to Gary Miller on peg 49. Ended up 4th on the day and 2nd in the lge.

Great end to a brilliant 2 weeks. Won the Ryecroft lge, 2nd in the 3 day festival and Starlets winning the Sensas Challenge. Now a break before 2 weeks in Ireland!!

Well done to Darren and Simon on a perfectly run league and massive congratulations to Steve Winters on the win.

Going to miss the craic in the pubs after the match with all the follow hotdogs. Roll on next Autumn!!!





# Secret Lives of Coarse Fish

**BREAM** – when it comes to spawning, the females are attracted to the best habitat and courtship display by the males.



## Spawning strategies

**Q** When fish spawn, is it just a free-for-all where males 'mob' the females or does the best courtship display win? Like we see on some of the wildlife programmes.

**D. Price, via email.**

### *The Doc says...*

Reproduction is a key phase of a fish's life as it is this process which allows the genes of an individual fish to be passed on to the next generation. As such, it is important for those individuals which are best adapted to their environment, for example those which have physical or biological traits which have been particularly successful, to gain a competitive advantage at spawning time.

It is this process which allows fish species to adapt over time to changes in their environment, but each

species has a different technique for ensuring the survival of the fittest.

In some species, it appears that spawning is a bit of a random affair with several males gathered around a single female in a writhing mass, but there are generally some subtle aspects to this behavior which afford stronger males a better chance of success.

In carp for example, females which are ready to release their eggs, will circuit around suitable habitat, usually pursued by several males all jostling for position. The largest, fittest males will be able to keep up this high energy pursuit for the longest, and will also produce the most milt, and will, therefore, have the best chance of being directly alongside the female at the moment the eggs are released.

In other species, such as grayling and bream, males select optimal spawning habitat, and defend territories adjacent to this habitat. Females are attracted by courtship displays or some other show of strength, and the males with the best habitat and the best displays attract more females.

The females also have a part to play in reproductive success, and in species such as dace, the size of the egg produced has a significant bearing on the likelihood of success.

Larger fitter females produce larger eggs, which in turn produce stronger larvae with bigger yolk sacs. These larvae not only stand a better chance of survival, but being bigger they also have a head start when moving onto larger food items, and when moving into deeper water.

It is not uncommon to see several size classes of dace from a single spawning season, and it is the largest strongest individuals at the end of the year, which will have the best chance of survival through the winter.

### **DR. STUART CLOUGH**

**Stuart, a qualified fishery scientist and advisor, answers your questions. Send questions to [richard\\_howard@ipcmedia.com](mailto:richard_howard@ipcmedia.com)**

### **FISHY FACT**

#### **Foul-hooked fish**

OCCASIONALLY fish can be hooked accidentally outside of the mouth, and in such circumstances the fight experienced can be very different. A fish hooked in the mouth is often unable to make the full force of its swimming felt, as the angle of the pull generally causes the fish to kite to one side or another. A fish hooked near the tail doesn't kite in the same way, and the amount of force generated is greater as a result.

In addition, as the tail beats from side to side, so does the hook, making for a very different experience for the angler. The combination of these factors results in foul-hooked fish often being more difficult to land than normally hooked individuals.





# A GOOD USE FOR CORMORANTS

Mervyn 'Topper' Haskins displays a set of his cormorant quill and balsa 'Topper' floats plus a set of original crowquill and balsa Toppers.



# Float man's a cormorant fan

GREG MEENEHAN reports

**A** FLOAT-MAKING legend has just produced what he believes could be a unique item of tackle – the first set of cormorant quill Avons.

West Country match star Mervyn 'Topper' Haskins has made crow quill Avon floats for over 50 years, and for ten years it provided him with a living.

But having got hold of cormorant quills, the master floatmaker believes they are even better than crow quills when it comes to creating the perfect trotting aid.

Topper explained: 'Our club, Bathampton AA, have a licence to shoot a few cormorants, and whenever they do they tell me where one is and I go and collect the quills,' said Bristol-based Topper, whose nickname is a family hand-down that he has shared with his five brothers.

'I also found a couple of cormorants on the river that had been shot, so I had ten quills, from which I've made

ten floats, along with a set of ten traditional crow quill and elderberry pith floats.

'The cormorant quills are very stiff, unlike crow, which when they get to a certain length get bendy. Cormorant quills are longer but stiffer and more round.

'I've framed the two sets of ten floats, and I believe the cormorant quill ones are the only set in existence.'

Topper has given up making his floats commercially, which has increased their value, with old ones changing hands for inflated sums on eBay.

'I did see one of my floats advertised on the internet and it went for £22,' he said 'so I can't imagine what a framed set of ten cormorant quill Avons would fetch,' he added.

■ This week's Inside Line feature in p.24/25 has a full interview with Topper about the float that he made famous, and why and how it wiped the floor with every other design in its heyday.

**“The cormorant quills are very stiff, unlike crow, which when they get to a certain length get bendy.”**  
**'Topper' Haskins**





# Half a Century of Irish Angling.

By Geoff Copper

Yes I guess it's getting on 50 years since I first visited Ireland.

I started doing a few 'How to fish' talks for a holiday company and the owner suggested that seeing as what I was preaching was aimed at Irish rivers and lakes it would be a good idea if I gave the place a visit.



Although my immediate family had left Ireland to go to Sheffield and my dad's uncles had instilled into me that Guinness was like drinking cream of the Gods I wasn't that happy about it. There was still a bit of trouble about then and the thought of having a stick of dynamite shoved up my jacksy brought out the coward in me big style.

Having had my arm well and truly twisted and the assurance all would be well I departed from Holyhead on the old rolling tub known as the Leinster. It was dark, pitch black in fact and raining as I made my way through Dublin. The roads then weren't exactly the best either. No road signs and what there were most of them had been turned round facing in the opposite direction. My destination was Cartontroy a suburb of Athlone. Four hours later by pure fluke I arrived in the vicinity but totally lost. There was a small isolated cottage by the road with a glimmer of light shining through the drawn curtain. With some trepidation I knocked on the door which was answered by an elderly gentleman. I asked him if he knew the people I was going to stay with. He replied he did and walked down his path and got in my car. He immediately started to tell me where to go and off we went down narrow lanes in the pouring rain. Thoughts of kidnap and ransom or even worse traversed through my head as we drove for a good five minutes until arriving at a well lit bungalow. 'This is the place,' he said as he stepped out of the car. I told him to get back in as I would take him back. 'Ah you, you'll only get lost again,' he said as he vanished in to the darkness and still bombarded by a deluge of heavy rain.

Some stories need to be cut short as I will this. If you don't maybe folk get bored reading and on the other hand there has to be a story for another day.

My home for the next two weeks was with Pat and PJ. PJ was the detective sergeant in Athlone and as mad as a bunch of frogs in a very special way. What a wonderful special guy who was to become a good friend. Pat his wife was her part of the double act and it would be no problem writing a book about the fun over the years I

had with them.



My first mornings fishing was at Burgess Park on the Shannon which then was affectionately known as the tip. It was where Athlone council dumped all their rubbish and if you didn't watch your bait the rats would eat as much as the Bream. First cast the tip went round and a big slab slid over my landing net rim, then another and another. Three days of that and it was not only repetitive but sad to say a bit boring. My search and love of Ireland then began.

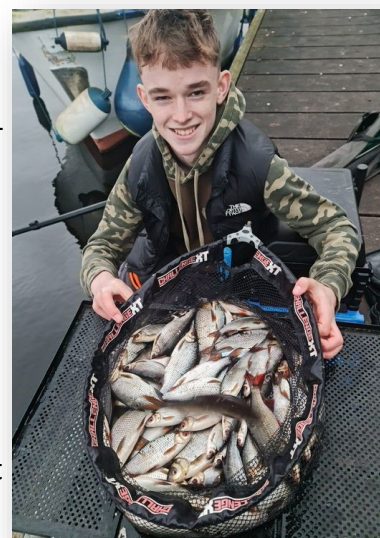


I fished the canal at Rahan with my new Shakespeare Victory 9m full carbon pole. It was a real goodun then. The canal was heaven and unfished. lily fringed and full of fish this time big Rudd, hybrids and a smaller stamp of Bream than the river but boy did they go. I visited Gowna, Garadice and other places that took my eye as I familiarized myself with this angling paradise. What had become blatantly obvious to me was the fact that the Irish didn't fish. The ones that I came across that did used a branch from a tree with line that would anchor the Ark Royal. Amazingly they caught a few fish which were taken for consumption or just left on the bank to die.

I have to tell you folks, things have changed over the years. It became noticeable how rods were being used with reels on them. Rough as a bears arse at first but copping on quicker than a drunk driving down a one way street. There tackle became refined. Irish lads not only began to fish Festivals along side the British. They not only fished with em but began to beat them on a regular basis. Clubs have been formed and some waters protected by those that fish them. We have a nucleus of talent and the pleasing thing is there is more to come. We now have some very good youth anglers coming through the system. Not by chance however as a dedicated team are making sure the lads are being coached on a professional basis. The youth team is led by joint managers Adriane Browne and Nick Richards ably supported by under 20 coach James O'Doherty. The specific aim is to improve their angling potential so as to compete at World level. Development days are held on a regular basis and the scheme is open to all young up and coming anglers.

The NCFFI usually pay the entry fees for the World youth Championships but the balance for the rest of the trip is self funded. As you can imagine this is no easy task and to say the budget is tight is a bit of an understatement. Fund raising events are held and any form of sponsorship is more than welcome. To perform at this level some of our lads have to rely on match tackle donated second hand or other wise. Youth team managers can be contacted on their Facebook page Fishingtackle4youths or Facebook messenger Youth Team Ireland.

Having already produced one under 18 World Champion and the potential to produce more is there to see. I ask on their behalf if any of you out there can help in any way please contact Nick or Adrian directly.



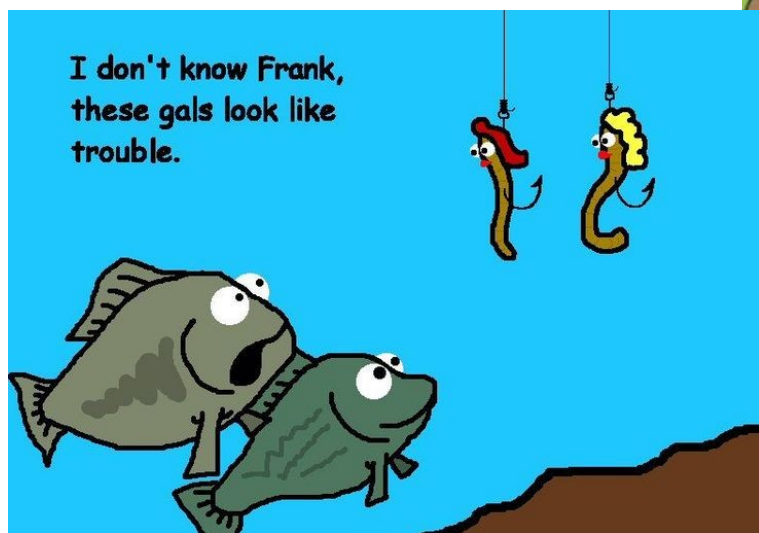
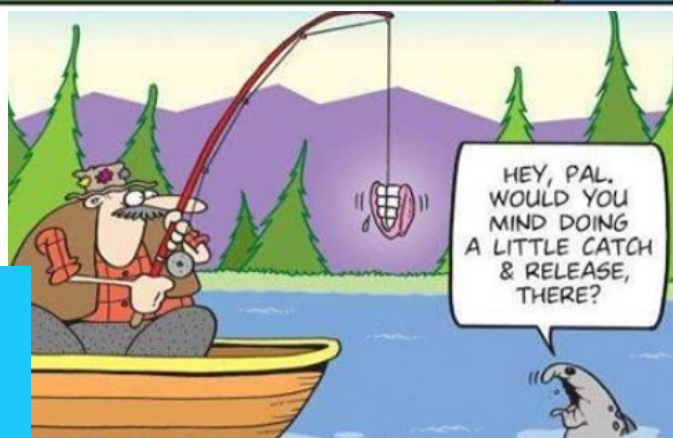
Luke Tully



## Fun side of Fishing



"That's odd... the fish were biting like mad a minute ago, and now it's like they've completely lost their appetite."



Shumor.com





# Tales from the riverbank

TRUE LIFE STORIES!

YOUR No.1 Angler's Mail brings you a warts 'n' all tale every week, from a different top angler.



**THIS WEEK'S STORY-TELLER IS: THOMAS PETCH**

*Former Mail staffer of 13 years and an All The Answers contributor.*

## ATHLETIC HYSTERICS OF A CLUMSY MATE

**T**HIS is a true story about my last night trip with one of my best mates – Big Les. I've fished with him for over 20 years and we met on the bank.

I think our first ever meeting saw me in my pants wading out to net a carp but that's another story...

Big Les is an imposing figure at 6 ft 6 in. – but a real gentle giant and is all skin and bone. Just like a butcher's dog.

We were fishing at Surrey's day ticket complex Twyners and went for a two day, one night trip on the Match Lake which actually has a good head of double-figure and 20 lb carp.

For good measure he brought his good lady Rachel for her first ever fishing trip.

At dusk everything was settled. We were having a little social and life was good after I'd had a 23 lb 8 oz common and he'd had a few doubles.

During a few liquid refreshments I was explaining to Rachel about the fact when he gets a run he loses the plot and things go flying.

I thought I should warn her as she was about to share a bivvy with him for the first time. And I don't think Big Les even gets as excited in the bedroom on Valentine's night as when his bite alarm goes off. Even a small line bite and things go flying.

I told her about the many times he's slipped over 'bum over chest' in the mud and gone sliding down steep banks. And Les even chipped in with a

story about when he got so excited by a take he gave up his rehearsed route to the rods from a very tricky swim and leapt over bushes and down a sheer 6 ft drop onto concrete, landing face down.

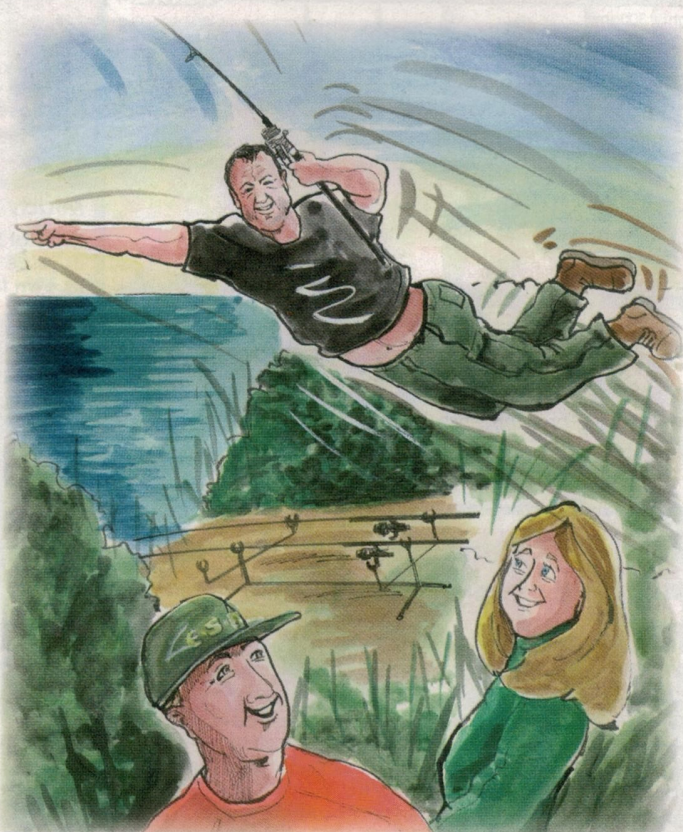
Bedtime drew on and I had just got settled in my sleeping bag when Les had another screaming take. I heard a hell of a commotion in his bivvy and from my perfect view of his swim I saw him charge down the steep bank at 100 miles an hour and dive head first like an Olympic swimmer right into the lake. There was an almighty splash as he entered the murky depths like a demented rhino and I dashed out of my bivvy and into his swim. I couldn't see him. Even at 6 ft 6 in. tall he was completely underwater.

Then about 15 ft out I saw his bent over rod tip creep out of the water and it seemed like many seconds before most of it was out followed by his head.

Rachel was now with me and we showed all the sympathy we could by bursting into hysterics. We just couldn't stop laughing and didn't stop for about 30 minutes afterwards.

She's said the buzzer went off while they were tidying up the bivvy and he instantly threw her across it like a WWF wrestler as she was blocking the doorway... and then dashed to the rods as fast as Usain Bolt.

Like a pro Les slowly got back to



**“ I saw him charge down the steep bank at 100 miles an hour and dive head first like an Olympic swimmer right into the lake.”**

the bank like a drowned giant rat and landed the fish – a 16 lb common – and was shivering like he'd gone into the Arctic Ocean.

I thought he'd quickly unhook it and slip it back but no, Les has his routine so it was an accurate weighing, zeroing the scales and then posing for lots of pictures while he nearly caught hypothermia.

It transpired he was rushing so quickly to the rods he knew he had two options, run into them or jump. So in a split second he decided that he wasn't going to smash £500 of carbon and alarms, and with lightning fast reactions he picked up the run rod and dived in with one smooth movement.

Why he did a Superman impression and couldn't have just hurdled the rods and just get wet feet is one of life's big mysteries.

But he landed his fish, didn't smash his rods, and is now getting married to the lovely Rachel this September so things worked out fine for him.

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**WHY** is breadpunch so deadly? There's no positive answer to this question. On it's day "punch" is unbeatable and used mainly on still or very slow moving waters it has a mysterious quality that makes it a pleasure to fish with. Yet it's not a natural bait and as far as I know there isn't anything else in the fish's diet that resembles it.

It would probably be fair to say that recently bloodworm has emerged to compete with punch as a top bait, especially on canals, but if you get the chance to compare nets of fish caught on the two baits you will notice that the breadpunch will always catch a bigger stamp of fish.

The "rule book" says that breadpunch is a canal bait and best employed when the water is clear and the quarry is roach. In the main this is true, but don't be afraid to experiment because fish in flowing water will also accept punch if it is correctly presented.

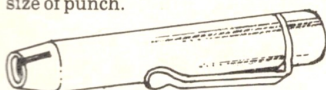
The problem is to get your hookbait in the same area as your feed and very accurate feeding is called for. Some anglers also have problems in keeping the bread on their hook in flowing water but this should not be a problem, if the bread is fresh enough.

Breadpunch is mainly a roach bait but also works extremely well for skimmer bream and crucian carp and I have also caught tench, dace and even perch on breadpunch hookbaits.

But let us go back to canals as these are the waterways that are most popular with breadpunch exponents. The basic equipment needed for this style of fishing could not be simpler and it must be the cheapest form of fishing available.

The most important utensil is the breadpunch itself. There are many different versions on the market, one or two are excellent, but most are useless.

The old fashioned model is shaped in the style of a pen. Made mainly of aluminium it has two or three interchangeable brass heads. The design is faultless, except that if you are like me and careless with your tackle, you may experience a problem. The trouble is that the spare heads are stored inside the pen's tube and if the cap on the top rusts you will be unable to open it thus being reduced to using only one size of punch.



The models I now use comprise three separate punches made out of coloured plastic (blue, red and yellow). Each one is about two inches long and they range from small to medium and large in size. An extra bonus is that they will float if accidentally dropped in the water. They should cost around 50p for a set and as such are very good value for money.

The bread you should use must be as fresh as possible. If you can buy it the same day you intend to use it, so much the better. I go for medium thickness, sliced white bread, although I have caught fish on brown. In fact I have even gone to the trouble of drying my bread slices red and yellow with liquid groundbait dye and these both work well too.

Some of the top breadpunch anglers do go to great lengths in steaming and rolling their bread and this is pretty easy to do. Simply hold each slice of bread over a steaming kettle, turning to do both sides, then cut off the crusts and roll with a rolling-pin until it is about



*BREADPUNCH can be deadly on still or slow moving waters like canals.*

# Bread packs a deadly punch

**ENGLAND** squad member Richard Borley looks at breadpunch — the cheapest and deadliest hookbait on the match circuit.

$\frac{1}{8}$ in thick.

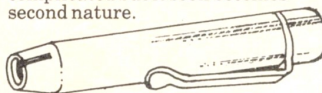
Many anglers complain of not having the confidence to wait a long time for bites on breadpunch while not knowing if they have any bait on the hook. But as I said, fresh bread is a must, and after a little practise you can bait up with no fear of the bait falling off until it is taken by a fish.

A useful tip is to use a hard, level surface on which to place your slice of bread while punching out baits. This ensures that the entire thickness of the bread is swallowed by the punch head, thus compressing it properly. You can cut a piece of wood to size and place it on your bait tray, for this purpose, but I simply use an upturned bait box.

One more thing to remember is to keep changing your slice of bread, especially during the summer months, because you will find that after an hour left in the sunshine the bread will start to go crispy and won't stay on the hook.

Once the bread is inside the

punch, hold the hook by the spade and put the hook point into the pellet turning it as you go, and bring the point out through the groove cut in the side of the tube. It may sound complicated but it soon becomes second nature.



When you cast in with a bread pellet on the hook, as it sinks it starts to absorb water and swells up to two or three times its original size until it looks like a miniature cotton wool bud. Presumably feeding fish see your baited hook as a bonus sample of feed in amongst your groundbait.

In the majority of cases I would recommend using good quality brown groundbait. Make sure it is pure bread but it does not have to be too fine or else you will find that it clogs. I think that choice of

groundbait colour is purely a personal thing. One of the best "punch" anglers I know, Mick Burrell of Essex, gets all his results on coarse white groundbait.

There are two ways to mix your groundbait and with both, the aim is to achieve a steady cloud of particles falling through your swim. On days when there is little ripple and negligible undertow I mix my groundbait with the minimum amount of water needed so that I can just about squeeze it into a ball. Used in this way it will float for a couple of seconds before the water separates the bread and the bait explodes into a tantalising cloud.

The other way is to mix with a lot of water so that you are left with a sloppy mixture. Just flick in small pieces of this and they will disintegrate very quickly as they sink. I would use the wet mix if wind or distance made accurate feeding harder than usual.





# Fishing Tackle Box

Just Some Items for Sales on our Sister Facebook Page for more items for sale go to

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3 daiwa 25a reels 2 x brand new 1 used once. Brand new spare spools also available at extra cost



THE BEST REEL DAIWA MADE USED GENUINELY ONCE SPARE SPOOL LOOK AT PICTURES PLEASE DONT SEND ME STUPID OFFERS IF U NO UR REELS U WILL NO HOW GREAT THIS IS ILL HALTH HAS BEEN REASON THIS WAS USED ONCE AND I WILL NOT POST CASH ON PICK UP ONLY IN NO HURRY TO SELL PICK UP RADCLIFFE

Milo hard case well used  
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I have for sale a set of 5 Colmic Francy Deep Water Pole Rigs stored on Preston Inovations Pole winders expertly tied by myself on 0.16 Match Team line, 2g, 1.5g, 1g, 0.75g, 0.5g, £15 Cash on Collection only from Walkden Manchester



Mudline margin pole floats glass stem extending through the foam body into a high viz tip of your colour choice power dura eyes fitted as standard £1.00 each plus postage





MAP 501 16m pole  
Mint condition  
1 x 16m pole with nose cones  
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1 x short 4... See more

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Maver msi series 4 seat box  
For sale would benefit from a new seat as looking tired  
Comes with maver strap and foot plate all knobs working as should  
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Huge fishing bundle  
 Over 40 rods carp /match new and used  
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 There's loads more  
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 3 elastic have broke but still goes up  
 Collection only Mk442dt  
 Iv got pics of bivvi I put today

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**Drennan Acolyte Pro Tele Whip 300**

 Message



# THE CURSE OF MATCHFISHING (CHEATING)



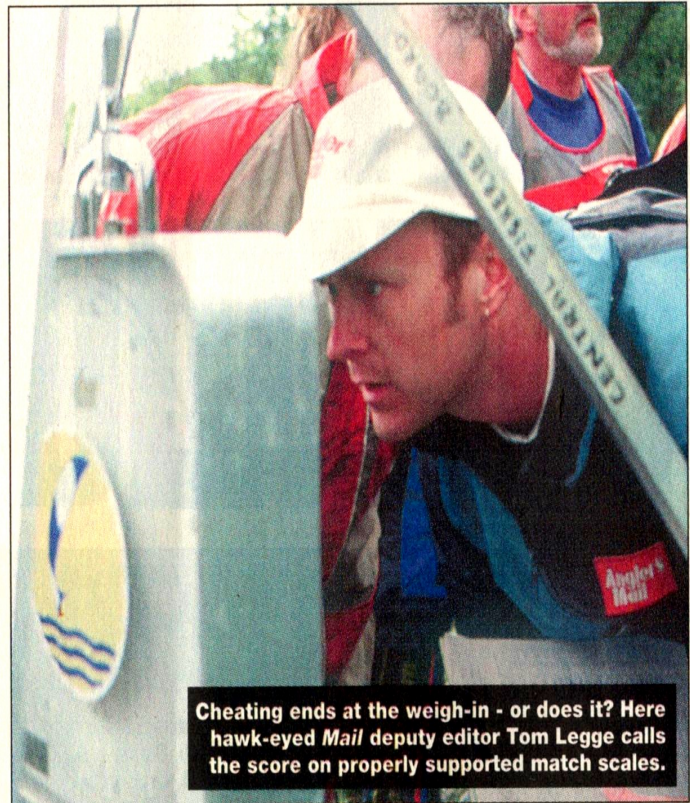
**MatchMail special investigation into cheating. Reports by Paul Dennis**

**CHEAT!** It can get you sent off in football if you yell it at the ref, but you might fare a lot worse if you mention the word on the open match circuit.

But accusations of sharp practise, gamesmanship, rule bending and downright cheating still surface in match fishing. And in some areas anglers are concerned that it is getting worse.

But what is cheating and what isn't? Does it depend on local preference, or are there some rules that are nationwide?

We asked a panel of top anglers what they thought about practices on the match circuit, and for their views on what should be allowed and what should be outlawed.



**Cheating ends at the weigh-in - or does it? Here hawk-eyed Mail deputy editor Tom Legge calls the score on properly supported match scales.**

## THE EVIL SINS

### TAKING FISH

**Cheat factor 10/10**  
**Risk factor 10/10**

THE rise in popularity of commercial fisheries has seen this never common practice dwindle. Let's face it, how can you smuggle 120 lb of carp to your peg then into your net?

On rock hard team matches there have always been whispers of fish

'walking' along to tough sections, and of anglers bringing fish with them.

This was the single most unpopular cheat as rated by our panel. To a man they favoured draconian punishment to be handed down to anyone caught in the act.

Don't forget that moving fish from one venue to another without correct certification is also illegal, so as well as being ostracized you might end up with a hefty fine as well.

### MARKED CARDS

**Cheat factor 10/10**

**Risk factor 10/10**

THE POOR beleaguered match organiser suffers most from accusations in this area, especially if he has a decent run at the drawbag.

Natural accidents like running out of a batch of envelopes part way through sealing up the draw cards, then discovering the next batch of envelopes is a slightly different shade, can



**Draw ticket - organisers would take a huge risk here.**

cause many a rumpus. But on some occasions it can be done deliberately, and those in the know can choose which envelopes to go for.

Other tricks to look for are different placement of staples, multiple staples in some draw cards, elastic band marks or tickets folded in different ways.

But let it be said that the majority of organisers have plenty of hassle without groundless accusations being levelled at them. And of those that are dodgy, word very soon gets around.

### DIRTY TACKLE

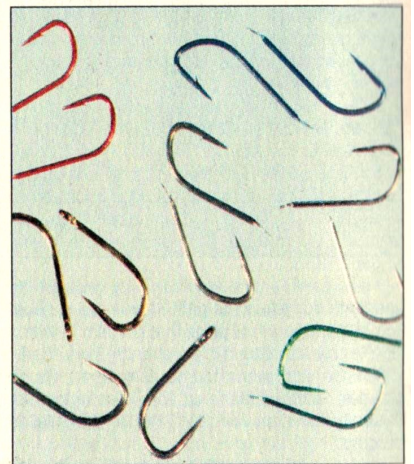
**Cheat factor 10/10**  
**Risk factor 9/10**

SOME banned tackle is easy to spot. It's a bit hard to hide a method feeder crashing down.

Barbed hooks are more difficult, but most fisheries do spot checks these days and if your hook fails the sweater test your card is quickly marked.

No excuses on this one. There are plenty of good barbless patterns available, including Preston Innovations' Pinch Barbless.

But don't make the mistake of thinking that crimping down the barb on your hook means that it becomes a barbless pattern - it doesn't.



**Hooks - no excuses for wrong sort.**

### DOUBLE DRAWING

**Cheat factor 7/10**  
**Risk factor 7/10**

IN THE dim and increasingly distant days of massive Open matches, some organising clubs allowed multiple tickets to be bought by one angler.

This angler could then draw the same number of pegs which his tickets entitled him to, giving him a choice of several different draws, before trotting off

to pay his pools money. Sounds incredible, but it's true!

All-in ticket prices and recorded draws have priced this practice out, and most matches are strictly one man, one draw nowadays.

But if the match rules allow multiple draws then it isn't cheating. If you don't like it the easiest thing is to vote with your feet and fish elsewhere. It all depends on your own personal match fishing ethics.

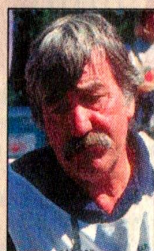
Drawing more than one ticket having paid for only one most definitely is cheating, but once again the recorded draw has seen this all but die out.



# What our panel said

## DICK CLEGG

**Drennan Team England boss**



**Dick Clegg - give cheats total ban**

"I HAVEN'T seen any cheating recently, but it was rife years ago. I expect anglers to be as straight and honest as me.

Anglers who get caught taking fish to matches deserve all they get. In my opinion they should get a total ban. I know it has happened in the past, but I think the risks are too high these days.

Double drawing used to be allowed on some matches and it was common practise for some anglers on those matches to buy a number of tickets, but I can't think of anywhere that it still goes on.

As far as placement of anglers into certain sections goes, it wouldn't be a bad idea on some matches to be able to play to your team's strengths. It could be beneficial.

I can't see it happening in matches like the World Championships though.

Although no money is directly involved in winning the match, the potential from sponsorship is substantial and the glory of winning means that it probably won't ever happen."

## KEN GILES

**Shakespeare's elder statesman**

"I ACTUALLY reported an angler for cheating a long time ago. I was drawn opposite him and saw him take fish from a can behind him and put them in his keepnet.

He was kicked out of the match but then got caught

doing the same thing some years later on another venue.

But I've got to say that over the years the number of anglers who have been caught cheating has been miniscule, I don't think it's a big problem these days.

I'm against double drawing on ethical grounds. Match fishing should be one man one chance. I know some matches used to allow it years ago, but I always tried to avoid them.

Similarly I'm against placement of anglers. I've never done it with my teams. Who am I to send one angler off to a good peg and another to a bad one? Who in their right mind would fish for a team where it went on?"

## TIM APLIN

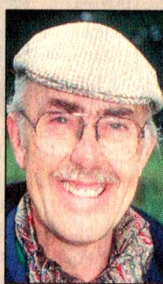
**Matchman Supplies skipper**

"I WAS actually caught cheating once - but it was an accident.

It was on a match at Attenborough Gravel Pits years ago. I had the feeder out for bream, and it had been out so long without anything happening that I forgot about it.

Then I set up a pole and started to plumb the depth, when someone else quickly pointed out that I really shouldn't be fishing with two rods. It was very embarrassing.

I think one of the problem areas with cheating could be



**Ken Giles - never placed team men.**



**Tim Aplin - accidentally caught out**

banned baits. I'm sure that some anglers try to pull strokes on carp lakes by slipping banned ingredients into their crumb.

I know that double drawing used to go on years ago, but I haven't heard of it recently. And as for placing anglers in team matches, I know it goes on, but not in my area. I've never been in any set up where it was allowed.

I've never seen anyone taking fish to a match, I think the risk is too high, they would be banned for life if they got caught."

## TOM BOULTON

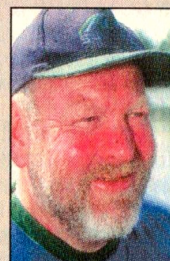
**Normark Blue Fox skipper**

"I THINK out and out cheating is minimal these days. I haven't seen any for donkeys years.

You used to hear about organisers fiddling the draw, but anglers pretty soon suss them out and stop going. Loop-holes like double drawing seem to have been closed by having recorded draws, and for well known anglers it soon becomes obvious if they keep having a dip in the bag. Organisers are well on the ball these days.

The winter league that my side fish in, the Norfolk and Suffolk, does allow the placing of anglers, and the payouts are section and team biased to take that into account.

Having said that, I don't pick and choose which anglers go to the best sections. I use it for reasons of economy. Three of us travel in the same van and we are always placed on adjacent sections to cut down the dashing about. It just makes sense to do it that way."



**Tom Boulton - cheating is minimal**

## BANNED BAITS

**Cheat factor 10/10**

**Risk factor 9/10**

DEPENDING on which bait is banned this can be a tricky one to police, but match organisers, and anglers are usually quick on the ball when it comes to spotting anglers pulling strokes.

The old excuse of: 'I didn't know it was banned' rarely washes these days.

Always enquire if there are any bans in force when booking in. They're too numerous to list in Matchplan. If there are, don't take the banned baits with you to your peg, then you won't be tempted and you can't be accused.



## DODGY SCALES

**Cheat factor 10/10**

**Risk factor 9/10**

MOST anglers are clued up at the weigh in these days, and realise that it is possible to manipulate readings on dial scales by holding them in different positions.

For the uninitiated, the ideal is to have dial scales supported on a tripod or similar, well away from human hands. If you see anglers holding the scales by any part other than the loop, or similar which is at the top, point out their mistake.

If they insist on supporting the scales from underneath it might be worth having a word with the organiser after the match. And ALWAYS check that your weight is recorded correctly and legibly.

**Holding scales can give false readings**

## PLACING

**Cheat factor 5/10**

**Risk factor 5/10**

PLACING of anglers in team matches only rates a five score for cheating and risk because in some areas it is allowed.

It was the main area of debate in which our panel expressed differences of opinion as to whether placement of anglers was an unethical practise or simply a more

professional approach to team fishing.

Tactically you have to agree that playing to the strengths of the anglers in your team is a big advantage. You wouldn't expect Glen Hoddle to play Alan Shearer in goal, or for the England cricket team to draw their batting order out of a hat (though it might be worth a try...).

Problems arise when big money, and prestige are at stake, but most team events where placing is allowed have a section and team biased pay out system, rather than geared to the overall individual.

## EXTRA TIME

**Cheat factor 10/10**

**Risk factor 7/10**

THERE can't be many anglers who haven't been just a little bit slow in removing their tackle when the all-out has sounded.

But there are those who abuse the gentlemen's 'winding-in time' agreement.

This can be especially emotive on team matches where every extra fish is important. To the letter of the law, not responding promptly to the all out is cheating. On the scale of it's better to be safe than sorry it is best to comply so there are no arguments.

Sneaking extra time before the match even starts has also been known on occasion. This carries an even bigger risk factor and is out and out cheating.



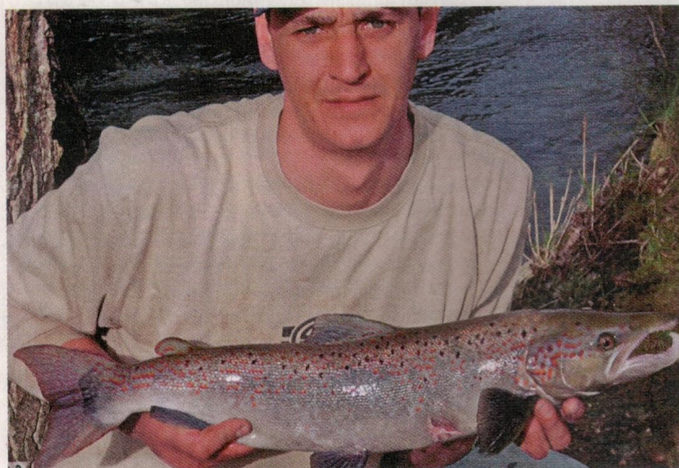
# End of Season Catches



**TONY CHARMAN**, father of ace specimen hunter Duncan, was lucky to land this 14 lb 3 oz barbel on a Thames tributary after it snagged him, and then his line got caught around the back of the reel. His son, Kevin, had to bite the line and re-tie for him. He landed it on a size 8 Korum S3 hook to a braided hook link.



**LAURENCE MASON'S** first cast of the day produced this decent 14 lb 2 oz barbel at Dobbs Weir on the River Lea, the venue that produced the British record chub four years ago. Laurence, from Waltham Abbey, Essex, hooked the PB beard within 15 minutes of casting out a 14 mm halibut pellet.



Gardener **BLOU ARNOLD** freelined a live minnow on a stretch of the River Allen, near Wimborne in Dorset, for this pretty 7 lb salmon. He was fishing a free stretch of the river in the town centre, and landed it on 8 lb line.



Cambridgeshire specimen hunter **PAUL ELT** fished the Great Ouse for this lumpy 6 lb 4 oz chub. The chevin fell to trotted maggot before Paul, from St. Neots, added a trio of perch. He landed them all on size 18 hooks to 2 lb hook lengths.



Brothers **MICHAEL** and (pictured) **BURT DEAN** had a day on the River Kennet with angling guide Neil Wayte and landed chub of 6 lb and 5 lb 13 oz. The south London based duo were on the CEMEX stretch at Burghfield. Michael used cheese paste, Burt feeder fished maggot. Guiding latest: 07990 952288.



**JOHN SEARLE** had a great session on his local water, the Hampshire Avon, whilst making a DVD for centrepin maker Paul Witcher, landing this 25 lb 8 oz pike for the cameras. The wildlife artist and author of 'A Brush with the Avon' hooked it on a smelt fished on a 30 lb trace and 20 lb main line.



# Record minnow!

● Coach catches mini marvel ● Drams over current British best



Tale of the tape – Kevin Sims' minnow was nearly as long as his glasses.

**A**NGLING coach Kevin Sims thinks that he may have broken the long-standing British minnow record, with a fish weighing 1 oz 4 dr.

The chartered accountant caught the mini beast from the upper River Chelmer, in Essex, but didn't think that it was near to the record at the time, so he put the fish back without seeking witnesses.

Felsted, Essex-based Kevin said: "I was roach fishing near to Felsted, in a swim where I usually catch nice dace, roach, brown trout and some chub, but this time I caught the biggest minnow that I have ever seen.

"I put it in a small plastic bag and weighed it using digital scales, and it went over 1 oz 4 dr. It was only after sharing this information with friends that I realised it was a massive minnow. I can't validate the weight, and the bag would have weighed something, but it was a fat minnow and at least 3 in.-long.



**“It would be wonderful to give this fat little fish a platform.”**

**Kevin Sims**

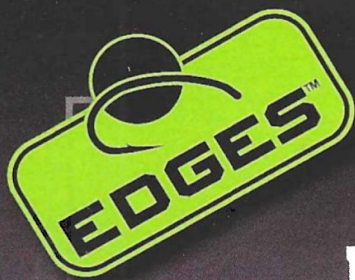
The upper Chelmer is full of small brown trout and silver fish, and is fishing its head off.


"I fish the Blackwater, Stour and Chelmer, and regularly catch minnows, but I've never caught one as large as this before.

"It would be wonderful to give this fat little fish a platform, although I'm sure I will get a bit of stick from my fishing buddies, as minnows are rarely targeted," concluded the 55-year-old coach.

The official minnow record stands at 13.5 dr, a fish caught by James Sawyer at Whitworth Lake, near Spennymoor, County Durham, in 1998.





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# HINGED STIFF RIG

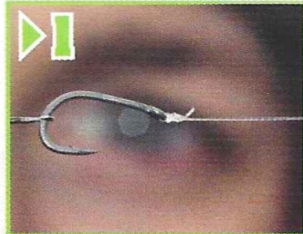
**ONE OF THE ALL-TIME CLASSIC 'BIG FISH' RIGS, THE HINGED STIFF RIG IS AN OUT-AND-OUT POP-UP PRESENTATION THAT CARP SIMPLY CANNOT DEAL WITH...**

The Hinged Stiff was originally designed many moons ago by rig guru Mike Kavanagh and has since become popularised by many of carp fishing's biggest names. The rig works in a very similar way to the Naked Chod Rig that we have just covered and in fact the hook section of this rig is exactly the same as a Chod Rig hooklink! The difference here is that we attach a stiff boom (tied from either Camotex Stiff or Illusion fluorocarbon) of 6-8ins to the ring on the 'Chod' hooklink to give the rig a greater degree of flexibility. The boom section can then be fished in conjunction with a lead clip arrangement or as a helicopter setup depending on personal preference. The rig is at its best when fished in conjunction with a buoyant pop-up boilie hookbait over a spread of boilie free offerings.

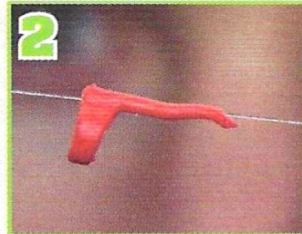


**THE COMPONENTS YOU  
WILL REQUIRE TO TIE  
AN EFFECTIVE ZIG RIG.**

## HOW TO TIE A ZIG RIG



**1**  
Cut the hooklink to the length you require then tie your hook on with a Grinner Knot.



**2**  
Take your chosen Zig Aligna and thread it onto the hooklength, thick end first.



**3**  
Slide the Zig Aligna down the hooklink and then position it over the eye of the hook, like so.



**4**  
Next, place your chosen colour of foam into the back of the special loading tool.



**5**  
Pass the thin end of the loading tool through the loop on the Zig Aligna, as illustrated above.



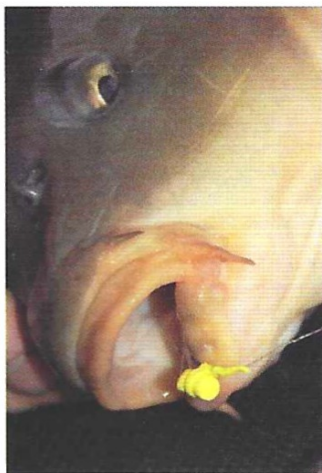
**6**  
Work the tool through the loop, which will grip the foam as it passes through.



**7**  
The foam is now trapped inside the Aligna and can be trimmed to the size you require.



**8**  
The finished Zig Rig should look just like this and is ready to catch carp up in the water.



*The hookholds produced by the Zig Aligna's are awesome.*

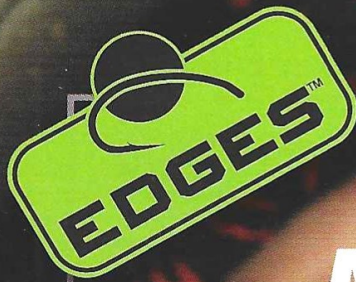
## TOPEDGE

Have a number of Zig Rigs tied up in advance and stored on a Zig Disc to save time on the bank.



*Fox consultant  
Tom Maker with  
30lb+ mirror  
on a Zig Rig.*





FIND'EM | FEED'EM | **FOX**

# ADJUSTABLE ZIG RIG

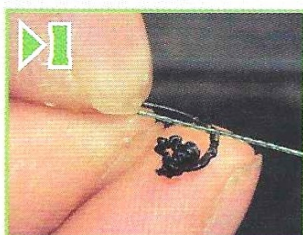
NOW THAT YOU HAVE  
MASTERED THE ART  
OF TYING A ZIG RIG  
HOOKLENGTH, HERE IS  
HOW TO USE A ZIG FLOAT  
WHEN FISHING LAKES  
OVER 15FT DEEP...





**THE COMPONENTS THAT WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU USE TO TIE THIS RIG.**

## HOW TO TIE THE WITHY POOL RIG



**1** Cut 8ins of Coretex Matt and remove 2.5ins of outer coating from one end.



**2** Tie your size 6 Arma Point SSSP hook to the exposed braid with a 5-Turn Grinner Knot.



**3** Thread the large ring of a Mini Hook Ring Swivel onto the shank of the hook.



**4** Now place an Edges Hook Bead onto the shank of the hook into the position shown.



**5** You will then need to thread a Withy Pool Adaptor onto a splicing needle, like so.



**6** Slide the Withy Pool Adaptor down the rig and into position over the eye of the hook.



**7** Mould some Power Grip Putty around the serrations on the bottom of the Adaptor.



**8** Attach your chosen pop-up using the 'Blob' method illustrated on page 10 and the rig is complete.



### TOPEDGE

Use the Fox Steam and Store Chod/Withy Bin to maintain the curve in your rig when storing them.



*Dutch consultant Jeroen Flokstra with an Abbey Lakes stunner that fell to the Withy Pool Rig.*



# Busy Bird finally bags a PB perch



**KARL BIRD** smashed his perch PB with this 3 lb 1 oz stripy, after travelling to lots of venues.

The 36-year-old Sleaford, Lincolnshire, angler, who works for the Royal Air Force, told us: "I was supposed to be fishing at Farmoor, in Oxfordshire, for the weekend, but storms put paid to that.

"Plan B was to fish the River

Thames, but it was flooded, and on Saturday my mate, Jim, and I racked up a record number of miles, driving to 13 places and blanking at each of them, ending up at my village lake, where Jim managed a nice jack.

"Another mate who lives oop north was going to join us, but he bailed out, deciding instead to fish a local water, catching 30-plus perch.

"On Sunday, after being housebound all day, I just had to get back out. The village lake did me proud last year, as I landed five two-pounders, but I just knew it contained bigger perch.

"I have struggled on there this year, having endured over a dozen blanks and catching only a couple of fish to 1 lb 8 oz.

"In the evening, in the sixth swim, a mate pulled out the

first chub that I have seen from there. I had a take a few minutes later, and assumed that I had a chub on, too, but then a 'unit' came up and I started shaking. It was a 3 lb 1 oz perch, my first three-pounder.

"I went back again in the pouring rain, but this time I had my ass handed back to me, suffering my 11th blank in 15 sessions," added Karl.

## This week's GREAT CARP CATCHES



**COLIN RUTTY** targeted open water at Loggies Lake, on the Stour Valley complex, to tempt this 42 lb 6 oz mirror carp. The 30-year-old carper from Tunbridge Wells, Kent, added two 19-pounders and three 20s, the best 28 lb, all tempted on 12 mm Sticky Baits Manilla boilies with PVA bags containing 2.3 mm pellets.



**SHAUN ANTEN** enjoyed a successful 24-hour session on a Diss & District Angling Club water in Norfolk, catching five carp, topped by this 22 lb 4 oz mirror during the night. Local Shaun legered Bait-Tech Triple-N boilies over a bed of Super Seed Chilli Hemp.



**IN-FORM** Craig McEvoy can't stop catching carp at tricky The Avenue, in Shropshire, this 45 lb 2 oz mirror being his latest triumph, tempted during a 48-hour session. The 40-year-old operations manager from Wednesbury, West Midlands, added others of 34 lb 12 oz and 35 lb 12 oz, all on Dynamite Monster Tiger Nut Red-Amo boilies.





**CHAY JACKSON** has been targeting a 5 lb-plus chub from his local River Anker, in Warwickshire, and easily beat it with this 6 lb 8 oz chevin. The 46-year-old full-time angling guide from Hurley, Warwickshire, link legered homemade cheese paste on a size 6 hook to 6 lb line.

**MARK DOCKER** tackled a local stillwater for this fine brace of pike, scaling 17 lb 8 oz and 13 lb 2 oz. Burnley, Lancashire-based Mark, who offered mackerel deadbaits, said: "I just got the big one in the net and all of a sudden the other rod went off. I was just having a coffee when the madness started. I added three others that day."



**ALEX YOUNG** banked a brilliant double on his local River Wandle, at Morden Hall Park, taking a lovely club and a near-double koi carp.

The 31-year-old Bank Property Services owner from Morden, South London, legered two red maggots on a size 10 hook over a bed of hemp and maggots.

Alex said: "I have a video of the koi taking the bait and the rod ripping off. It gave a good fight and weighed 9 lb 2 oz. While I was unhooking the koi, the other rod went, resulting in a 3 lb-plus chub."



**CHARLIE COUGHTREY** had a great result on a tributary of the River Adur, as he managed to catch the this fine 8 lb bream.

The nine-year-old student from Burgess Hill, West Sussex, feeder fished maggots for the deep-bodied species, which have been given a number of nicknames when they get big, most notably 'dustbin lids' and 'slabs'.



**EMAIL YOUR CARP PICTURES TO:**

**Clive @angling-news.co.uk**



**LEE CARPENTER** caught this magnificent 34 lb 14 oz linear mirror carp from a Nene Valley lake. The 39-year-old carp nut from Northampton legered a homemade Sticky Baits The Krill corkball over 16 mm freebies.



**JOE BLAKE** caught four carp during an overnight session at a local Hampshire pit, topped by this 36 lb mirror. The 18-year-old carper presented Mainline Cell boilies to an overhanging dead tree on the far margin, which he knew was a productive area.

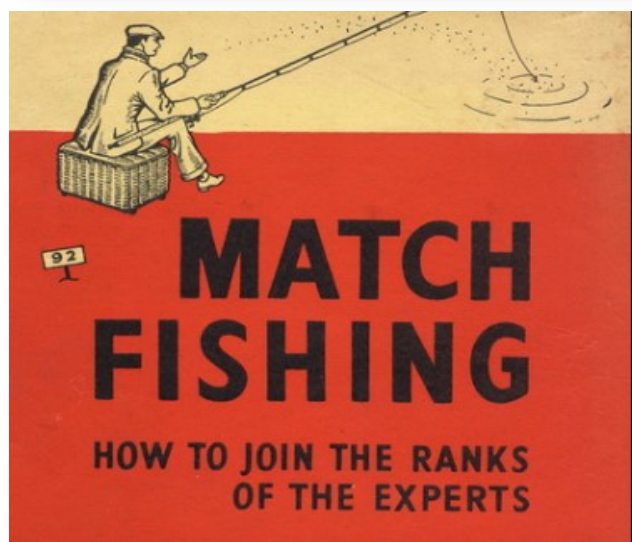


**MARTIN MATHEWS** returned to the Soil Shed swim on the Specimen Lake at White Springs, South Wales, as he'd had good success from there before, and legered the fishery's own Banana boilies to tempt this 37 lb 8 oz common carp, called Sonny.

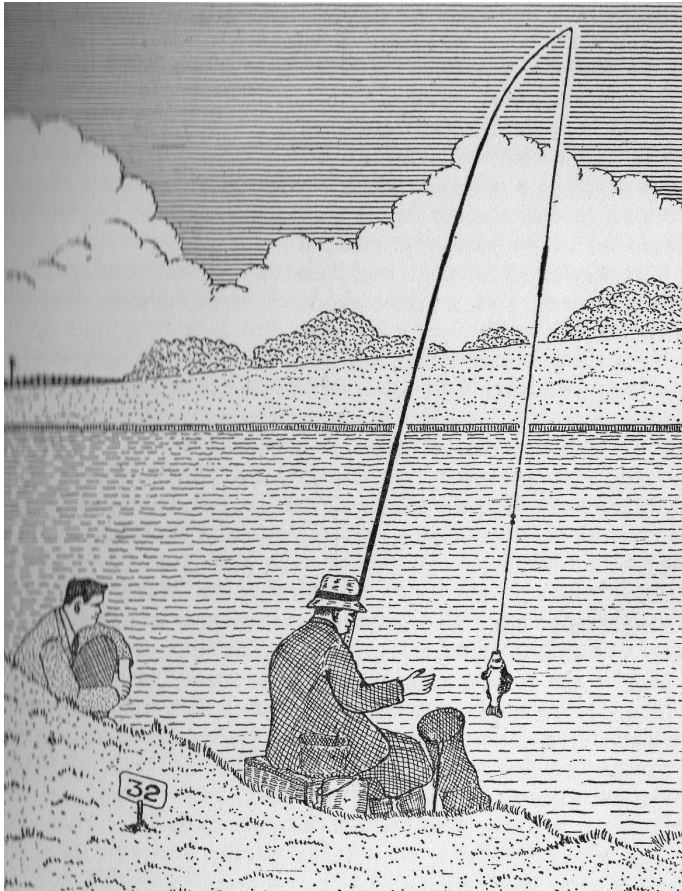
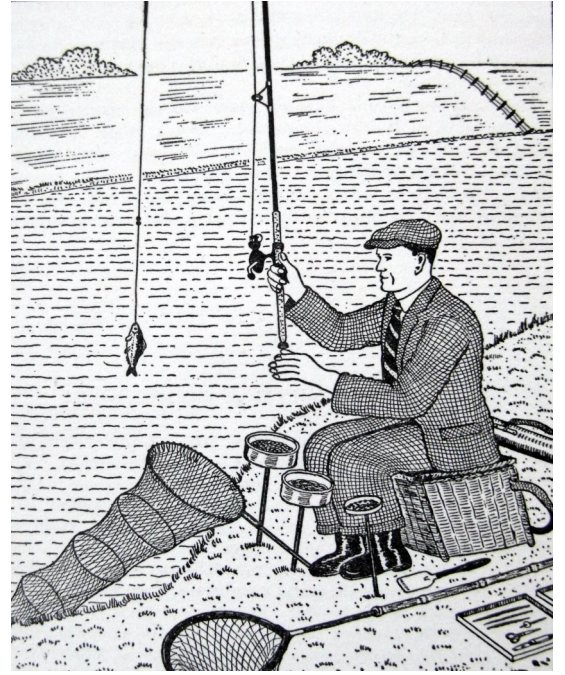


# John C Essex

Just thought I would post a short piece about Frank Oates, top angler in his day during the late 40s and 1950's and fishing historian extraordinaire. Frank wrote a number of angling related books though the most important and well known of those is 'Match Fishing – How to Join the Ranks of the Experts' published in 1957. A joiner by trade, he learnt his 'art' skills having been a draughtsman for the MOD at the outbreak of the Second World War. His artwork can be described as quaint but since acquiring Frank's photo library it's quite clear that many of his illustrations were derived from photographs of actual events and matches. This can be seen from the attached photos and excerpts from his book Match Fishing. I always thought the drawing of the 'fat legged' man rather odd but if you look at the original photo it is a fairly true depiction of the York and District maestro Ron, aka 'Fatty', Davies.







THE WEIGH-IN

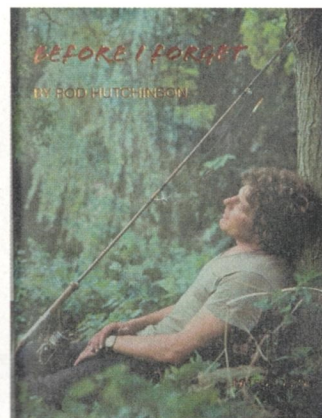


FRANK OATES



## NEW BOOK EXCLUSIVE

WHEN carp fishing legend **Rod Hutchinson** passed away in 2018, he had been writing some of the stories from his early days of fishing and when he set up his Catchum business. These have now been published in a book, along with many previously unseen photographs and new artwork, with the family's permission. The Little Egret Press has allowed us to use a couple of excerpts from the limited edition book, *Before I Forget*, along with a few of the photos.



Copies of *Before I Forget* are available, priced £29.95, from [www.thelittleegretpress.co.uk](http://www.thelittleegretpress.co.uk) or by ringing 07909 090983.

# When Hutchy met Yates at Redmire

**I** DON'T know what broke my sleep, but I put it down to a strange sound coming down the valley in which the lake lay. I laid there trying to fathom it out, but could not identify it. It could have been a small van or a motorcycle or come to that a bicycle with a bit of cardboard in the rims of the back wheel. Anything was possible, when after getting to a crescendo it suddenly stopped. I turned over and tried to get another couple of hours sleep in. It turned out to be a converted lawnmower, now a car cum van!

My intention never quite happened. Within a few minutes there was a voice outside my 'Boy's own' tent. "Hello. Anyone there?" came the voice of someone obviously quite posh. Well, posher than me. I could put it down to the north-south divide, but there are some funny accents in the southern parts. This was pure BBC English. I leapt out of the tent thinking it could be Richard Dimbleby come to interview me.



Early days of carping together - the late, great Rod Hutchinson (left) with the one and only Chris Yates, who is very much still fishing and writing.

Instead it was my first meeting with rota member Chris Yates. He was tall, long-haired and bearded, and so slim that he wavered in

the breeze like the branches on a willow. He looked like he had just stepped out of a folk group... Peter, Paul, Mary and Chris perhaps? Introductions

over, Chris gratefully accepted my offer of a cup of tea, though his face changed somewhat when he watched me fill the kettle with water direct from the lake.

The only thing that was a little bit snobby was he objected to my early edition tea bags (they came in hessian sacks), insisting on going round to his van and getting some fresh tea and a china teapot. The first cups of tea on Redmire had to be a special moment in your life to look back on in years to come. To commemorate the moment, he took from his pocket a piece of plum cake and sliced it down the middle with his Swiss Army knife, and then gave me half of it. To be fair, I don't eat fruitcake much, but came up with the desired words "totally delicious". Little did I know that this little piece of cake was intended to provide Chris's provisions for his three-day stay!

A smallish piece of cake and a small can of sweetcorn were his total rations. No, memory betrays me, he also had a tiny tin of bamboo shoots. Gotta look after yourself, son.



# The day Rod's face turned red

**T**HE third bait that I had to offer when Catchum Products was launched had outperformed the other baits in the colder months, even Seafoodblend, a point I would emphasise when my first advert would be put out. It was good to have a specialist cold-water bait, another string to the bow, yet I still doubted the sales potential of Minglefruit, as I had called it, because carp anglers were still few on the ground in winter.

When the orders came in, all but one included Minglefruit, which was a real surprise, as I was promoting it as a winter bait. Three weeks after the first advert, Minglefruit was outselling Seafoodblend by more than two to one.

I had to knock up 25 kg of Minglefruit every night to keep up with demand. If it was a hot night I would get covered in the stuff, and even in the dark would get attacked by wasps, when the moths retreated. I would run out of the garage straight into the shower, and the clothes I had worn had to be stuck straight into the washer every night.

When I looked through the product list in the advert, something kept flashing but not really registering. The word 'minge' wouldn't leave my head. I couldn't understand why. Minge, minge, minge!

**Carp had a craving for Rod's special bait.**



Now, where I live, and in many other parts of the country, so I am led to believe, this is a term for a girl's naughty bits! There it was, published in black and white. "The aromas of the autumn, fresh fruits that create a craving in animals, insects and, we believe, carp. Minglefruit is so good you'll want to eat it yourself."

I was so embarrassed. I had two teenage daughters and a wife who was a headmistress! I didn't know how to talk my way around this one, and didn't have the skills to bodyswerve the questions I was definitely going to receive. To this day, even friends don't believe me, but I had nothing to do with it. I suspect that it had been my friend David Hall, to whom I had sent the original hand-written article to set it out. David had a wonderful sense of humour, but at that moment I did not appreciate it one bit.

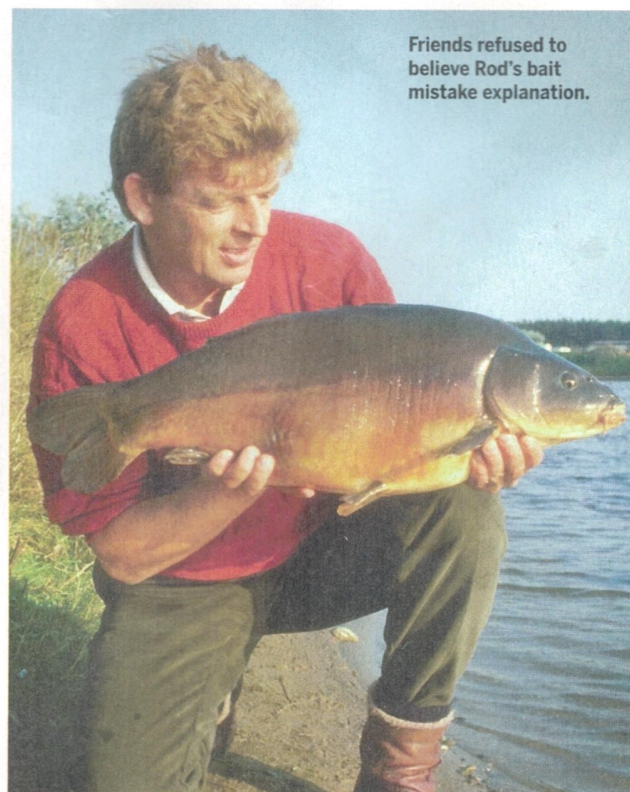
I quickly replace 'Minge' with 'Mingle' in the adverts, put on my tin hat and braced myself for the Spanish Inquisition I was surely going to get when the family came home. Somehow I survived the blast. The kids thought it was funny, and the wife festered like an unlanced boil. You may think that rumours and scandal pass round quicker in a town or city than they do in the sticks, but that is not true. In the country you only met a handful of people a day, and the conversation was very limited. The day started out talking about the price of turnips in my local shop, and by the evening I'd been running a minge farm.

I will just finish by reporting that my amended adverts did not push on sales within the company. Eventually I had to drop the product, much to the dismay of some of my customers.

I simply replied that I was very sorry, but I could not trace a supply of fresh minges.



Guess the flavour!



Friends refused to believe Rod's bait mistake explanation.

**NEXT WEEK in Angler's Mail:** we begin a fantastic new series with an expert in his field, canal aficionado **John Ellis**.



# Match Results March 2024

Blythe Waters Open, Solihull, W. Mids. Wed (22 fished). Dave O'Neill 106-0-0; Alister Fraser 43-10-0; Micky Stokes 36-10-0.

Earlwood Lakes Open, Solihull, W. Mids. Sat. Dave Stacey 42-8-0; Alan Jones 37-0-0; Jez Harris 27-12-0.

Embryo Kiveton Waters, Sheffield, S. Yorks. Sun 17th Mar., Open, Rose's Lake. Richard Allen 101-1-0; Glyn Ball 83-14-0; Mick Brownell 59-8-0. Tues., Bomb & Feeder Open, Eve's Lake. Michael Dawson 61-5-0; David Briggs 38-6-0; Paul Massey 34-12-0. Wed., Over 50's Open, Rose's Lake. Geoff Mawby 76-8-0; Paul Walker 58-5-0; Peter Gould 37-5-0. Thurs., Open, Eve's Lake. Ricky Darby 123-2-0; Darren Parker 102-14-0. (only top two supplied).

Peter Caton's Sciver Match, Boddington Reservoir, nr. Byfield, Northants. Tues. Pegs 2-12: N. Franklin 33-6-0; S. Gent 21-12-0; Karl Mullen 17-8-0. Pegs 69-80: Stu Palser 36-4-0; Peter Caton 17-8-0; M. Williams 7-9-0. Pegs 83-92: Wayne Sharman 84-5-0; D. Sanders 55-4-0; N. Russell 50-6-0.

## Stillwaters

Castle AC Pairs League, Canons, Northants. Sun 17th Mar. Dick Ashby & Roger Adkins 6-9-0; Steve Page & Gary Keetly 5-12-0; Dick Cullen & Dave White 5-10-0.

Castle Ashby Opens, Grendon, Northants. Wed 13th Mar., Grendon Lake. Paul Robinson 40-11-0; (Joint 2nd) John Bazeley 28-15-0; Courtney Hewlett 28-15-0. Sat 16th Mar., Brickyard Pool. Courtney Hewlett 36-1-0; Frank Pizzimenti 26-12-0; (Joint 3rd) Alan Coleman 24-9-0; Paul Beasley 24-9-0. Sun., Grendon Lake. Phil Wintle 42-10-0; Ian Drage 25-4-0; Matt Ellson 21-6-0.

Langold Country Park, Worksop, Notts. Sun 17th Mar., Open, Langold Lake. Dave Lawrence 17-10-0; Craig Brunt 8-9-0; Steve Cooper 7-5-0.



Patshull Park Fishery, Great Lake, Pattingham, Staffs. Sun (21 fished). Deeps Section: Rich Lawson (Vespe) 16-14-0 (bream and skimmers on pole tactics) Phil Davies (DH Angling) 8-4-0 (small skimmers on the feeder); Mike Careless (Monkhall) 8-1-0 (small skimmers on the feeder); Paul Bucknell (Little Dawley AC) 5-4-0.



Worsbrough Reservoir Open, Barnsley, S. Yorks. Sun 17th Mar (30 fished). Nick Speed 82-0-0; Paul Coope 48-0-0; Alan Barker 40-0-0. Section winners: Section 1 – Danny Stokes 16-0-0; Section 2 – Brandon Fowler 24-0-0; Section 3 – Darren Pressland 35-0-0; Section 4 – John Kelly 24-0-0; Section 5 – Josie Chris Trimnell 32-0-0. (bream and skimmer weights).



Alders Farm Fishery, Gt. Brickhill, Bucks. Sun 17th Mar., Open, Ash Lake. Gary Thorpe 212-0-0; Trevor Price 199-0-0; Dan Fox 99-0-0.

Anglers Choice Middlesbrough Spring League, Round 5, The Oaks Lakes, Sessay, N. Yorks. Sat. Harry Wintersgill 110-0-0; Shaun Glass 101-5-0; Phil Cooper 86-0-0 (no league placings supplied).

Bateman Vine AC, Unwicks Farm Fishery, Hartlebury, nr. Kidderminster, Worcs. Sun., Hunter's Pool. S. Mills 65-5-0 (Golden peg win); N. Gater 28-0-0; D. Lester 19-5-0; C. Hariss 18-8-0.

Bitterwell Lake Tuesday Silvers Open, Coalpit Heath, Bristol. Tues. Paul Isaacs 28-2-0 (27 skimmers and one tench); Ricky Mills 20-14-0; Mat Taynton 19-6-0; Martin McMahon 17-6-0; Keith Turner 17-3-0; Ali Gibbs 16-0-0. Silvers Final Qualifier: Keith Turner.

Blake Hall Fisheries, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. Sat., Blake Lake. Matthew Sellers 32-13-0; J. Riley 22-5-0; Nelly Edwards 12-13-0.

Blundell Fishery, Rixton, Ches. Sat., Open, Trio & East Lakes. Andy Pearson 120-0-0 (138-6-0) (F1s to 7lb on poled maggot down the edge); Chris Weeder (Chris Weeder Jnr. Angling) 118-2-0 (carp to 6lb on poled maggot down the edge); Dave Swain (Garbolino/Dynamite) 92-6-0.

Bradshaw Hall Fisheries, Bolton, Gtr. Manchester. Sat., Open, Lake 9. Paul Jenneys 48-5-0; Graig Dickinson 42-2-0; Aaron Wright 37-0-0.

Brookside Fisheries, Warrington, Ches. Sat., Open, Snake Lakes 1 & 2. Stuart Conroy 116-5-0; Steve Carrier 101-13-0; Dean Edwards 93-14-0.

Castle Ashby Opens, Grendon, Northants. Wed 13th Mar., Grendon Lake. Paul Robinson 40-11-0; (Joint 2nd) John Bazeley 28-15-0; Courtney Hewlett 28-15-0. Sat 16th Mar., Brickyard Pool. Courtney Hewlett 36-1-0; Frank Pizzimenti 26-12-0; (Joint 3rd) Alan Coleman 24-9-0; Paul Beasley 24-9-0. Sun 17th Mar., Grendon Lake. Phil Wintle 42-10-0; Ian Drage 25-4-0; Matt Ellson 21-6-0.

Flore & Brockhall AC Teams of Three Final, Dog Lane Fishery, Napton-on-the-Hill, Warks. Sun 17th Mar. Steve Barratt (Newbold) 21-7-0; Gil Corn (The George) 21-6-0; Brian Johnson (The George) 20-13-0. Top team on the day: Newbold. Final league: Newbold 78; The George 65.5; Regulars 60; Dolphins 59; Reliants 46.5.

Glebe AC, Makins Fishery, Bramcote, Nuneaton, Warks. Sun 17th Mar. Vince Battams 92-6-0; Russ Colton 63-10-0; Andy Belham 36-15-0.

Hawkesbury Hall Farm, Bedworth, Warks. Sun., Open, Match Pool (12 fished). John Kidd (Hawkesbury) 44-2-0 (carp to 9lb on poled corn); Bob Palmer (Hawkesbury) 35-5-0 (carp to 4lb plus two bream to 4lb on poled corn and pellet); Paul Thompson (Hawkesbury) 28-14-0 (carp to 6lb on pole-fished soft pellet).

High Heyes Farm Fishery (The Catteries) Open, Chorley, Lancs. Sat. Kevin Monks 58-12-0; James Declouet 52-8-0; Jordan Cameron 35-8-0; Paul Billington 28-4-0.

Hilton Park Fishery Open, Shareshill, Wolverhampton, W. Mids. Sat. Icky Kull (Fatty's Baits & Tackle) 54-14-0 (F1s and carp on pole tactics); Carl Bowater 50-11-0 (F1s and carp on pole tactics); Gavin Whyman 44-9-0 (F1s and carp on pole tactics).

Izaak Walton Fishery Winter League, Round 5, Chebsey, Stafford, Staffs. Sun. E. Knight 107-13-0; Dan Deakin 86-0-0; Robbie Dale 82-13-0; P. Hudson 82-6-0; Luke Pemberton 61-12-0. (no league placings supplied).

Lagoon AC, Furtho Manor Farm, Milton Keynes, Bucks. Sun 17th Mar., Lagoon Pool. Barry Witteridge 2-14-0 (one tench). (the rest DNW).





Meadowlands Teams of Three League, Final Round (5), Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Warks. Sun 17th Mar., Lambsdown Lake & Warren Pool (42 fished). Peter Caton (Captain Crooks) 201-6-0; Steve Ringer (Guru/Daiwa) 195-8-0; Karl Mullen (Sicarios) 112-7-0; Carl Barnfield (Foxes) 111-4-0; Stu Palser (Captain Crooks) 105-4-0; I. Lillystore (Tornadoes) 91-8-0. Teams: Captain Crooks 8; Guru/Daiwa 9 (351-4-0); Tornadoes 9 (250-11-0); Ginger Ninjas 15; Casemore Baits 17; Sicarios 18. Final league: Guru/Daiwa 68 (1,090-2-0); Captain Crooks 68 (1,027-6-0); Casemore Baits 79; Ginger Ninjas 96 (820-14-0); Sicarios 96 (683-1-0); Tornadoes 103.

Molly's Fisheries Silvers Open, Wigan, Gtr. Manchester. Sat. Ian Blakeley (Leigh Tackle & Bait) 29-13-0; Graham Sixsmith 29-10-0; Colin Wood (Wood's Floats) 26-12-0.

Monkhal Fishery, Monkhopton, nr. Bridgnorth, Shrops. Wed 13th Mar., Open, Swallow Pool. Rob Jeaps (Monkhal) 93-12-0; Simon Harris (Little Dawley AC) 80-2-0; James Woodfine (Maver Midlands) 73-0-0. Sat 16th Mar., Open, Hawk Pool. Andy Kyte (Middle Severn Angling) 131-12-0; Rob Jeaps (Monkhal) 88-0-0; Romeo Wang (Monkhal) 86-10-0. Sun 17th Mar., Open, Buzzard Pool. Glen Monks (Monkhal) 149-0-0; Mark Rundle (Monkhal) 125-4-0; Johnny Rouse (Monkhal) 115-10-0.

Nene/Towcester AC, Furtho Manor Farm, Milton Keynes, Bucks. Wed 13th Mar. John Broughton 7-0-0; Harry Harris 1-2-0; Brian Ayliff 1-0-0.

Nisa Feeders Open, Makins Fishery, Bramcote, Nuneaton, Warks. Wed., Phase One – Lakes Three & Four. Joe Carass (NuFish) 77-9-0 (decent carp on the feeder to the island); Daz Milne (Hinckley) 75-1-0 (carp on the pole, shallow); Andy Findlay (Preston Innovations) 65-7-0; Sam Collett (NuFish / Dynamite) 57-11-0; LJ Stroud (The Rod Squad) 40-0-0; Ricky Arms (Hinckley) 31-7-0.

Osprey AC, Castle Ashby, Grendon, Northants. Sun 17th Mar., Brickyard Pool. Andy Knell 31-12-0; Ray Radon 26-1-0; John Bazeley 20-15-0.

Packington Somers Fisheries, Meriden, W. Mids. Wed., Solihull Angling Centre Open, Big Geary's Pool (14 fished). John Burchell 96-2-0 (carp and skimmers on poled maggot); Andy Christie 88-9-0 (carp on poled pellet); Jon Newton 77-3-0 (carp on the pellet waggler and poled maggot); Lee Davis 77-2-0 (carp on the Method feeder and poled pellet). Sat., Open, Big Geary's Pool (20 fished). Barry Byrd 93-7-0 (carp on poled maggot down the edge); Trevor Hodges 53-2-0 (carp on the Method feeder); Lee Davis 49-13-0 (carp on poled pellet); Dave Roberts 45-14-0 (carp on bomb and pellet).



Packington Somers Fisheries Big Geary's Silver League, Final Round (4) Meriden, W. Mids. Sun., Big Geary's Pool (24 fished). Alan Hancox 22-12-0; Brad Smith 18-5-0; Dave Elliott 17-10-0; Martin Wood 17-9-0. Final league: (Octogenarian) Dave Elliott 3 (78-8-0); Trevor Hougham 3 (51-4-0); Martin Wood 4 (62-6-0); Jon Newton 4 (55-6-0); Brad Smith 4 (46-15-0); Alan Hancox 6 (53-8-0); Dave Ashdown 6 (47-5-0); Paul Mortimer 6 (42-4-0).



Partridge Lakes Fishery, Warrington, Ches. Sat., Open, Covey Lakes 1-4 (58 fished). John Nugent 96-10-0; Lee Lamb 91-3-0; Martin Baldwin 75-14-0; Jake Waterworth 65-14-0; Neil Machin 60-6-0; Danny Aldred 58-2-0.

Preston Innovations Boldings Pools, Bridgnorth, Shrops. Mon., Over's 60 Open, Sycamore Pool. Colin Reynolds (Preston Innovations Boldings) 140-0-0; Steve Owen (Monkhill) 129-12-0; Terry Edwards (Pool Hayes) 129-2-0; Dave Mortlock (Preston Innovations Boldings) 125-6-0; Bill Hill (Preston Innovations Boldings) 120-11-0. Wed., Open, Larch Pool. Gaz Willey (Walsall) 135-14-0; Dave Bowater (Preston Innovations Boldings) 121-8-0; Rich Pedlar (Bibby's/Stone & District AC) 115-9-0; Les Willey (Walsall) 103-7-0; Gareth Unwin (Big C) 102-15-0. Sat., Oswestrians AC, Ash Pool. Clive Wynn 105-6-0; Colin Reynolds 91-14-0; Kenny Humphreys 86-14-0; Rob Hancox 69-9-0; Terry Edwards 69-2-0. Sun., Open, Sycamore Pool. Rich Pedlar (Bibby's/Stone & District AC) 153-9-0; Gary Smith (Maver Elite) 107-5-0; Steve Woodhall (Preston Innovations Boldings) 107-0-0; Matt Rathbone (St. Francis) 93-5-0; A. Tank (Walsall) 82-0-0.



Spilsby AA, Toad Hall Fishery, Candlesby, Spilsby, Lincs. Wed. Tony Hancock 41-15-0; Neil Williams 36-12-0; Dave Andrew 24-4-0.

Splinters AC, Peatling Pools, Peatling Parva, Lutterworth, Leics. Wed 13th Mar., B. Lake. Tom Griffiths 114-6-0; Trev Griffiths 96-1-0; Dave Griffiths 83-5-0. Sun 17th Mar., C. Lake. Steve Johnson 106-5-0; Kev Elliott 87-11-0; Tom Griffiths 81-11-0.

Stoppo's Fishery Silvers Open, Coton-in-the-Elms, Derbys. Wed. Carl Yeomans 13-15-0 (skimmers to 2lb plus smaller samples on the short pole at 4 metres); Ian Saiger 13-2-0 (three big crucians and nice skimmers close in); John Harper 12-9-0 (mainly skimmers close in); Ian Foster 9-0-0 (skimmers on the short pole).

The Cunnuries Fishery, Eccleston, Chorley, Lancs. Sat., Open, Merlin & Hawk Pools. Stu Carroll 82-13-0; Jack Howarth 81-14-0; Ant Sheridan 81-2-0.

The Oaks Lakes, Sessay, N. Yorks. Sat., Open, Cedar Lake. Andrew Shuttleworth 62-12-0 (F1s); Dave Kirby 56-7-0; Jonny James 55-0-0.

The Old Hough Coarse Fishery, Middlewich, Ches. Sat., Open, Lower Benbo, Lucky Dip, Prospect & Goose Pools. Mike Anderson 72-10-0; Jay Phoenix 63-1-0; Mick Reed 56-6-0; Carl Day 53-13-0; Paul Davies 47-10-0; Dave Pimlott 46-6-0.

Todber Manor, Sturminster Newton, Dorset. Sat., Open, Hill View Lake (9 fished). Zac Brown 570-8-0; Henry Smith 470-12-0; Phil Hardwick 428-8-0.

Todber Manor Silver Fish Open, Sturminster Newton, Dorset. Sat., Ash Lake. Dan Ponting 20-4-0; Matt Skyme 19-12-0; Stu White 18-10-0.

Weston Pools Opens, Oswestry, Shrops. Sat., Weir Pool. Chris Lane 110-12-0; Kevin Roderick 73-10-0; Adrian Chidlow 51-13-0. Sat., Canal Pool. Bob Williams 83-13-0; Allan Hughes 81-4-0; Steve Openshaw 76-13-0.

Whitmore Fisheries, Greenhalgh, Preston, Lancs. Sat., Open, East Canal (17 fished). Richard Yates 48-12-0; Graham Carter 41-5-0; (Joint 3rd) Gary Gunn 31-14-0; Jordan Bate 31-14-0.





# Canal Results

Cashmores MG, Trent & Mersey Canal, Priory Section, Rugeley, Staffs. Sat (22 fished). Mike Elcock 6-12-14; Carl Nicholls 3-15-0; Paul Vernon 3-7-4; John Dunkley 3-1-1; Ian Kent 2-8-3.

Colmic Prostate Screening Fund Canal Championships 2024 Qualifier, Shropshire Union Canal (Wolverhampton AA Waters), Pendeford, W. Mids. Wed (18 fished). Paul Turner (Colmic UK) 11-9-0; Lee Richards (Wolverhampton AA) 7-6-8; Darren Barrett (B'ham) 6-6-13; Derek Owen (Rough Hay AC) 6-5-0; Chris Furnival (Unattached) 6-3-13; Owen Westwood (Wolverhampton AA) 5-13-2. Qualifiers: Paul Turner (Colmic UK); Derek Owen (Rough Hay AC); Lee Richards (Wolverhampton AA); Darren Barrett (B'ham).

Crewe MG Open, Waverton, nr. Chester, Ches. Sun (21 fished). Ben Clarke (Drennan NW) 6-10-0 (skimmers and roach); Wendy Locker (Chester Tackle Locker) 5-7-8 (skimmers); Simon Loyley (Chester Tackle Locker) 5-2-0 (one bream plus bits); Paul Dobing (Sensas Lifestyle MG) 4-7-8 (skimmers); Brian Pugh (Hodnet AC) 4-7-0 (skimmers); Ady Piggott (Cadence NW) 3-12-6 (mixed bag).

Erewash Canal Spring League, Round 2, Langley Mill, Derbys. Sat. Derek Tomlinson (Soldiers & Sailors) 5-10-0 (four lobby perch); Derek Hicklin (Maver Central MVDE) 5-5-0; Julian Garner (Long Eaton Fed.) 3-14-8; Pete Allwood (Long Eaton Fed.) 3-12-8; John Johnson (Notts. AA Ramblers) 3-11-0; John Lock (Loughborough Soar MG) 3-4-0.

Goodyear AC, Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, Slade Heath, Coven, Staffs. Sun (13 fished). Steve Thomson (Goodyear AC) 3-8-8 (120+ gudgeon on pole-fished pinkie and squatt); Fred 'the Bread' Cheetham (Goodyear AC) 2-15-10 (one 10oz hybrid plus small roach on poled bread punch); Martin Spruce (Goodyear AC) 1-11-11 (roach and gudgeon on poled pinkie and squatt); Mark Foster (Goodyear AC) 1-10-10; Keith Hulland (Goodyear AC) 1-8-0; Mark Wyton (Goodyear AC) 1-7-0.

HanKat Superteam AS Open, Stourbridge Canal, Old Strike Waters Pegs 4-23, Brierley Hill, W. Mids. Sat. Stu Cutler (HanKat Superteam AS) 11-0-12 (roach and hybrids on pole-fished bread and caster); Andy Curless (Drennan NW) 7-5-0 (two tench plus 2lb of small fish); Lee Woodhouse (HanKat Superteam AS) 4-15-1; Chris Rice (Sensas Black Country) 3-7-8; 'Big' Colin Talbot (Sparks MG) 3-6-4; Norman Wilson (Stourport) 3-3-0. Dedicated to the memory of Phil Simnett RIP.

Nene/Towcester AC, Grand Union Canal, Stoke Bruerne Bottom Lock Section, Northants. Sun 17th Mar. Graham Martin 23-0-0; Darren Pannall 7-8-0; John Harris 6-8-0.

Port Sunlight AC, Shropshire Union Canal, Stoak, Ellesmere Port, Ches. Sun. Frank Duckers OK 950g; Paul Simpkins OK 750g; Dave Hones OK 700g.

Stoke City DAA Individual Winter League, Final Round (6), Shropshire Union Canal, Norbury Junction, Stafford, Staffs. Sat (20 fished). Alan Round (Sensas Lifestyle MG) 8-4-14 (all roach on poled caster and hemp); Paul Turner (Colmic UK) 7-6-3 (caster-roach plus roach and gudgeon); Keith Hulland (Sensas Lifestyle MG) 7-1-12 (one 1lb 8oz perch plus roach and small skimmers); Dave Richards (Sensas Lifestyle MG) 5-9-8 (perch and roach on poled caster and worm); Fred 'the Bread' Cheetham (Sensas Lifestyle MG) 4-6-6 (all roach on poled bread punch); Keith Holbrook (Rough Hay AC) 4-5-5 (mixed bag). Final league: Dave Richards (Sensas Lifestyle MG) 9; Kev Perry (Cadence Superteam/Bait-Tech) 12; Fred 'the Bread' Cheetham (Sensas Lifestyle MG) 14; Keith Hulland (Sensas Lifestyle MG) 15 (three section wins); Dean Williams (Sensas Lifestyle MG) 15 (one section win); Lee Richards (Wolverhampton AA) 16 (on weight); Keith Holbrook (Rough Hay AC) 16.

Storey's Halesowen RBL, Worcester & Birmingham Canal, Hanbury, Worcs. Sun. John Billingham 2-0-8 (roach on poled bread punch); Kevin Clark 1-4-8; Lawrie Mulheron 1-4-0; Jon Baker 0-9-0; Geoff Garrish 0-7-12.

Wellingborough AC Winter League, Final Round, Grand Union Canal, Foxton, Leics. Sun 17th Mar. Wayne Nixon 15-2-12; Norman Bradshaw 9-11-0; Carl Smith 8-12-0. Teams: (Joint 1st) Colmic Blue & Wellingborough B. Final league: Nitro Stark 6; Colmic Blue 9; Nitro Aryzon 13.







Larford Lakes

24 March at 16:00 · 🌐

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**FISH MIDLANDS**  
**LARFORD LAKES**  
**Qualifier 1 - 60 Pegs**  
**27th April 2024**  
**Qualifier 2 - 60 Pegs**  
**27th July 2024**



## FISHOMANIA 2024 QUALIFIERS REVEALED

This year will see the nation's biggest and best fisheries stage qualifying matches, with a new venue joining the rota and the return of two old favourites too. Here are the dates and venues for 2024...

QUALIFIER 1 – Saturday March 30 – Tunnel Barn Farm Fishery, Shrewley, Warks – 120 pegs

QUALIFIER 2 – Wednesday April 3 – Boldings Pools, Bridgnorth, Shropshire – 100 pegs

QUALIFIER 3 – Saturday April 13 – Lindholme Lakes, Doncaster, Yorkshire – 120 pegs

QUALIFIER 4 – Saturday April 20 – Partridge Lakes, Culcheth, Warrington – 100 pegs

QUALIFIER 5 – Wednesday April 24 – Westwood Lakes, Boston, Lincolnshire – 100 pegs

QUALIFIER 6 – Saturday April 27 – Old Hough Fishery, Middlewich, Cheshire – 100 pegs

QUALIFIER 7 – Saturday May 4 – The Oaks Fishery, Sessay, North Yorkshire – 100 pegs

QUALIFIER 8 – Wednesday May 8 – Moorlands Farm Fishery, Kidderminster, West Mids – 100 pegs

QUALIFIER 9 – Saturday May 11 – The Glebe Fishery, Peckleton, Leicestershire – 100 pegs

QUALIFIER 10 – Wednesday May 15 – Weston Pools, Oswestry, Shropshire – 100 pegs

QUALIFIER 11 – Wednesday May 22 – Makins Fishery, Bramcote, Nuneaton, Warks – 100 pegs

QUALIFIER 12 – Wednesday May 29 – Hallcroft Fishery, Retford, Nottingham – 100 pegs

QUALIFIER 13 – Saturday June 8 – Weston Pools, Oswestry, Shropshire – 100 pegs

QUALIFIER 14 – Saturday June 15 – Partridge Lakes, Culcheth, Warrington – 100 pegs

QUALIFIER 15 – Wednesday June 19 – Westwood Lakes, Boston, Lincolnshire – 100 pegs

QUALIFIER 16 – Saturday June 22 – Monk Lakes, Marden, Kent – 100 pegs

QUALIFIER 17 – Wednesday June 26 – Lindholme Lakes, Doncaster, Yorkshire – 100 pegs

QUALIFIER 18 – Saturday June 29 – Gold Valley Lakes, Aldershot, Hampshire – 100 pegs

QUALIFIER 19 – Wednesday July 10 – Tunnel Barn Farm Fishery, Shrewley, Warks – 120 pegs

QUALIFIER 20 – Saturday July 13 – Marston Fields Fishery, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands – 100 pegs

FINAL – Saturday July 27 – Westwood Lakes, Boston, Lincs

More information: <https://anglingtrust.net/our-competitions/coarse-competitions/fishomania/>



# RiverFest

## RIVERFEST 2024 QUALIFIERS

### NEW VENUES AND MIDWEEK QUALIFIERS FOR RIVERFEST 2024

The UK's number one river fishing competition gets underway again for the 12<sup>th</sup> year running starting in June.



Matches start on Sunday June 16<sup>th</sup> on the Warwickshire Avon at Evesham and include two brand new venues for 2024 – Bristol Avon and Dorset Stour. The 27 match qualifying series will see 84 anglers make it through to the big-money final.

The two-day final will take place on the River Trent at Stoke Bardolph and Burton Joyce on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> of September with a prize pot of over £40,000, based on maximum ticket sales.

Tickets will be available from **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March** (in two rounds as before) and they remain at £35, the same price as they've been for the past three years.

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

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

### RIVERFEST 2024 – QUALIFIER DATES AND VENUES

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June – WARWICKSHIRE AVON, EVESHAM (60)

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June – RIVER TRENT, NEWARK (80)

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – RIVER CALDER, Mirfield (60)

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June – RIVER NENE, OUNDLE (60)

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June – RIVER SEVERN, BEWDLEY (60)

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June – RIVER TRENT, CAYTHORPE (60)

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June – RIVER MEDWAY, BARMING (40)

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – RIVER TRENT, CUTTLE BROOK, INGLEBY (60)

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July – WARWICKSHIRE AVON, STRATFORD (60)

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July – RIVER SEVERN, BRIDGNORTH (60)

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July – RIVER SOAR, SUTTON (60)

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July – RIVER TRENT, COLLINGHAM (60)



Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July – RIVER TRENT, BURTON JOYCE (80)

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July – DORSET STOUR, STURMINSTER NEWTON (60)

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July – RIVER TRENT, NEWARK (80)

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July – RIVER DON, SPOTBOROUGH (60)

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July – WARWICKSHIRE AVON, STRATFORD (60)

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August – RIVER THAMES, CLANFIELD (60)

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August – RIVER TRENT, COLLINGHAM (60)

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August – RIVER TRENT, BURTON JOYCE (80)

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August – RIVER TRENT, TRENT LOCK (60)

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August – TIDAL TRENT (80)

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August – TIDAL TRENT (60)

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August – RIVER TRENT, BURTON ON TRENT (60)

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September – RIVER THAMES, CLANFIELD (60)

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September – BRISTOL AVON, SWINFORD CRANE (40)

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September – RIVER THAMES, ABINGDON AREA (60)



## PRACTICE OPEN MATCH

The practice open match will take place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024 on the River Trent, Burton Joyce (up to 84 pegs)

**Round 1: Opens 10.00am Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 & closes at 23.59 on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Maximum of 1 ticket per angler in this round**

**Round 2 Opens 10.00am on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024, no restriction on the number of tickets that can be purchased.**



# Division One National Championship

Leeds Liverpool Canal, Wigan



Saturday 17th August 2024

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

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

**HQ:** Robin Park Leisure Centre, Loire Drive, Newtown, Wigan WN5 0UL

**Closure of waters for practice:** TBC

**Draw:** 8am

**Fishing:** 11:00am – 4:00pm

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

**Keepnet:** Minimum length of 2 metres

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

**Refreshments:** TBC

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

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



2023 Winners Barnsley Blacks



# DIVISION ONE NATIONAL ELIGIBLE TEAMS 2024

- Drennan Barnsley Blacks
- Browning Ossett
- Daiwa Gordon League
- Drennan Bordon
- Sensas Lobbys Match Group
- Daiwa Dorking
- Preston Innovations DELCAC
- Drennan North West
- Starlets A.S
- Future Fishing Match Squad
- Daiwa Tackle & Bates
- Drennan Oxford
- Matrix LTB Baitech
- Browning Hotrods
- Preston Innovations Sonubaits North West
- Scunthorpe Tackle
- Cresta Peterborough & D.A.A
- Browning Team Wickford
- Browning West Midlands
- Daiwa Doncaster & District A.A
- Sensas Alans MG
- Team Army UKLF
- Preston Innovations Thatchers
- Saints
- Wigan Match
- Cadence Superteam Bait-tech
- Colmic Dynamite Trentmen
- Mirfield Angling Club
- Newton-le-Willows A.A
- Colmic A4 Match Group
- Matrix Dynamite Image
- Sensas Lifestyle Match Group
- Stroud A.C
- Drennan Leicester VDE
- Lincs Match Squad
- Tri-Cast Calder Anglers
- Sensas Mark One A.C
- Colin Barlow A.C Sale
- Maver Milton Keynes A.A
- Sensas M5 Angling Squad
- Sensas North West – promoted from Division 2
- Maver Midlands – promoted from Division 2
- Tricast Rochdale – promoted from Division 2
- Colmic North West – promoted from Division 2
- Liverpool AS & Liverpool District AA – promoted from Division 2
- Sensas Oakwood – promoted from Division 2
- Garbolino Blackmore Vale – promoted from Division 2
- Tubertini Ludlow – promoted from Division 2
- Stoke City & District AA – promoted from Division 2
- Four Counties A.C. – promoted from Division 2

## More information go to

<https://anglingtrust.net/our-competitions/coarse-competitions/angling-trust-national-championships/division-one-national-championship/>



# Division Two National Championship

Aire & Calder and New Junction Canal

Saturday 7th September 2024

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

10 reserves.



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

**HQ:** TBC

**Closure of waters for practice:** TBC

**Draw:** 8:00am

**Fishing:** 11:00am – 4:00pm

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

**Keepnet:** Minimum length of 2 metres

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

**Refreshments:** TBC

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

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

More Information : <https://anglingtrust.net/our-competitions/coarse-competitions/division-two-national-championship/>



Sensas North West 2023 2nd Division Winne3rs



# Team Commercial Stillwater National

Drennan Lindholme Lakes

Saturday 20th April 2024

Sponsored by [Drennan Lindholme Lakes](#) in £2,500 prize money to winning team.



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

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

**Venue:** [Drennan Lindholme Lakes Fishery](#), Don Farm, West Carr, Epworth, Doncaster, DN9 1LF.

**Draw:** 8:00am

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

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

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

**Keepnet:** Minimum length of 2 metres

**Refreshments:** Available on site

The maximum number of entries have now been received and entries are now closed. Please email [kelly.latimer@anglingtrust.net](mailto:kelly.latimer@anglingtrust.net) to be placed on the waiting list.



# Individual National Championship

Leeds Liverpool Canal

Saturday 3rd August 2024

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

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

## Headquarters and Results:

**HQ Address for draw:** TBC

**Draw:** 8:00am on the morning

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

**Sections:** TBC

**Closure of waters for practice:** TBC

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

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

**Rules / Bait bans:** TBC

Leeds Liverpool Canal

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



More information: <https://anglingtrust.net/our-competitions/coarse-competitions/individual-national-championship/>



of



# Women's National Championship

Marston Fields – Saturday 6th July 2024

The Ladies National Championship is open to individual members of the Angling Trust over the age of 16 on the day of the event. You can join here <https://anglingtrust.net/our-competitions/coarse-competitions/ladies-national-championship/>

The competition has both an individual and a team category. The event will be scored by overall weight and the winner of the individual event will become the Ladies Individual National Champion 2024. To compete in the team event participants must also be competing as an individual.

**HQ:** Marston Fields Fishery

**Lakes reserved:** Willow, Elm, Oak and Laurels

**Draw:** 08:45am

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

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

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

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

**Rules / Bait bans:** Check Fishery & Angling Trust rules. **Refreshments:** Available onsite

## Cadet, Junior & Youth National Championships

Partridge Lakes Saturday 29th June 2024 – Cadet & Junior categories  
Sunday 30th June 2024 – Youth category

The Championship is open to any club/association affiliated to the Angling Trust and all registered anglers must be individual members of the Angling Trust. This National Championship consists of teams of 6 anglers in three different categories: Cadet, Junior and Youth.

**Cadets:** Open to anglers minimum age of 10 to 12 on the day of the championship.

**Juniors:** Open to anglers minimum age of 13 to 15 on the day of the championship.

**Youth:** Open to anglers minimum age of 16 to 20 years on the day of the championship.

**Fishing Times:** TBC **Draws:** TBC

**Closure of waters for practice:** tbc. Please check with the Fishery for their open matches as this could be subject to change. More information: <https://anglingtrust.net/our-competitions/coarse-competitions/juniors-youth-national/>





## Anglers with Disabilities National Championship

Marston Fields Fishery – Saturday 6th July 2024

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

The competition is fished individually and the event will be scored by overall weight and the winner of the event will become the Anglers of Disabilities National Champion 2024.

**Headquarters:** Marston Fields Fishery

**Lakes reserved:** Sycamore **Draw:** 8:30am

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

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

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

**Keepnet:** Minimum length of 2 metres (also see fishery rules regarding the number of nets and weight in each net). **Rules / Bait bans:** Check Fishery & Angling Trust rules. **Refreshments:** Available



## Veterans & Masters National Championship

Tunnel Barn Farm Wednesday 31st July 2024

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

**Headquarters:** TBC **Lakes reserved are:** Veterans – TBC

**Draw:** 08:00am **Fishing:** 11:00am – 4:00pm (duration of 5 hours)

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

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

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

**Refreshments:** TBC site

More information <https://anglingtrust.net/our-competitions/coarse-competitions/veterans-masters-national-championship/>



# Angling Trust Feeder National Championship

Aire & Calder and New Junction Canal



Saturday 24th August 2024

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

**Headquarters:** TBC

**Sections:** TBC

**Closure of waters for practice:** TBC

**Draw:** 8:00am **Fishing:** 11:00am – 4:00pm (duration 5 hours)

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

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

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

**Keepnet:** Minimum length of 2 metres

**Rules:** The Feeder National is fished to FIPSeD Feeder International rules

The club will have to fund their own participation as there is no funding or financial support available at this time.

More information <https://anglingtrust.net/our-competitions/coarse-competitions/feeder-national/>





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