

Dear fellow Anglers and Matchmen

I am thrilled to announce the May 2024 edition of my Angling News and Match Fishing News magazine. This is now the 5th edition since I relaunched early this year. (Checkout the earlier editions on tinyurl.com/clivebranson)

Lates News from our Facebook pages

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.facebook.com/groups/matchfishing>

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. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/matchfishing>

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



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Anglers Mail Archives

Anglers News Archives

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Greetings and Welcome to my monthly blog / Vlog

Its been over a month since I last fished a match, and that was on the River Wye in the Winter league, where I enjoyed a few good draws and some bagging moments.

So it was with great trepidation when I was invited to team up with a few of the lads from the club to fish the Spring league on the Gloucester canal. More about that in a minute.

Our Club the Sensas Nomads have in a sense changed names, formerly called Cardiff Nomads now rebranded Sensas Nomads. It was team member and friend Russell Milward who gave me a call and asked me if I wanted to fish the Gloucester Spring League 2024 matches. It is a 5 match series spread over April and May. Ideal to fill in the gaps waiting for the river season to start on June the 16th.

Remembering how bad the Canal fished many years before, spending many years as a young angler waiting for the tip to go around, and promising myself never to return. However fishing is fishing and we have to expect the good with the bad.

Fishing the league last year did produce a few results and pick ups, so what have I got to lose?, plus in a strange way the Gloucester canal has a challenge of its own. You either draw on fish or you don't.

The Match: The first match didn't let me down in its expectations, the draw was made on the Saturday night and a phone call from Russell saying my peg was 380 on castle bridge. An area I haven't fished before, so a quick call to fellow angler Nigel Evens, who has fished the Gloucester canal for many years, with the highlight of his career winning last year the first division national championships. He enlightened me by saying it's a crap area for the section and the end pegs should win, well he got it spot on. I started on the bred feeder across and managed 3 roach in my first 3 cast. Loose feeding close in with red maggot I managed a nice 10oz Rudd. I was into the first hour when I switched to a 13meter pole with the bread punch, and I was bitterly disappointed not to get a bite.

2 hours into the match after trying at least three different methods I decided to loose feed maggot over the 13 meter line and fish at half depth, again to no avail. Then I switched to full depth, and to my surprise I had 3 small skimmers and another small Rudd. Ending up waiting for a bream across on the feeder, looking like a garden gnome. Some may say watching paint dry is far better.

Come the end I frightened the scales man with 2lb 4oz and well down in the section, beating just 4 other anglers. Always next time I thought.....



To watch my vlog go to: <https://youtu.be/PzdK8DfWUj8>

May Calendar Girl



POLLUTION NEWS



The majority of UK dairy farms are breaking pollution rules, with vast amounts of cow manure being spilled into rivers. In the news this week.

When animal waste enters the river, it causes a buildup of the nutrients found in the effluent, such as nitrates and phosphates. These cause algal blooms, which deplete the waterway of oxygen and block sunlight, choking fish and other aquatic life.

Sixty nine per cent of the 2,475 English dairy farms inspected by the Environment Agency between 2020 and 2021 were in breach of environmental regulations, according to new data released under freedom of information laws.

The problem is prevalent across the UK; in Wales 80% of the 83 dairy farms inspected by Natural Resources Wales between 2020 and 2022 were non-compliant with anti-pollution regulations. In Northern Ireland 50% of the 339 dairy farms inspected by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs between 2020 and 2022 were not compliant, and in Scotland 60% of the 114 dairy farms initially inspected by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency between 2020 and 2023 were in breach of regulations.

Campaigners have linked this pollution scandal to that caused by the sewage crisis because it also involves ageing infrastructure and intensification of effluent discharges.

They say that pricing pressures from supermarkets, where farmers are offered very little for milk, have caused producers to intensify their production by increasing the number of cows they keep.

Charles Watson, the chair of the charity River Action, said: “The unacceptable pollution levels caused by the UK dairy industry is not dissimilar to the current UK sewage pollution crisis: aged infrastructure, designed for much lower volumes of effluent, being overwhelmed by the combination of intensification of use and more volatile weather conditions.”

“With a herd of 50 cows calculated to be capable of emitting the equivalent amount of pollution as a human settlement of 10,000 people, it is hardly surprising that the dairy industry is placing an unsustainable pollution burden on many river catchments across the country. Meanwhile, yet another chapter in the British river pollution scandal unfolds, our impotent regulators continue to watch on in a solely advisory capacity, and the giant supermarket groups happily count their profits at the cost of the continuous degradation of the environment.”



River Action is calling for dairy processors to offer incentives to farmers who produce milk responsibly, either by less intensive farming or by investing to dispose of cow muck responsibly.

It is also asking for a strengthened response from regulators, asking them to fully enforce existing anti-pollution rules. Many farms go years without inspections because regulators do not have enough staff owing to underfunding. River Action has asked the devolved national bodies responsible to expand and extend existing grant schemes to improve the infrastructure for slurry management.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said: “We have set ambitious legally binding targets to reduce water pollution from agriculture and are taking wide-ranging action to clean up our waterways. This includes investing £74m in slurry infrastructure to help farmers cut agricultural runoff and rolling out new farming schemes to thousands of farmers to deliver environmental benefits and adopt more sustainable practices – all to reduce the amount of nutrients entering rivers.”



Let us know your thoughts email clive@angling-news.co.uk

BREAKING NEWS

Record Roach Capture

RECORD ROACH? 4lb 13oz Beast caught on Fly!

Is this a true roach? It looks like one . It weighed 4lb13oz weighed on 3 sets of scales

The potential record roach was caught from Carsington reservoir on the fly. Three sets of scales confirmed 4lb13oz making it half a pound over the current best.

An astonishing fish. Of course a lateral line count is needed but, after a decent look that it's a roach, not a hybrid.

Carsington reservoir have said that it was caught by a visiting angler and will be submitted for a record claim. How exciting for them and for us!

What makes it really special is that it has probably never been caught before. A truly special fish



A capture has sent shockwaves through the angling world this week when angler, Graham Wood caught a potentially record-breaking roach, weighing an astonishing 4lb 13oz.

Mr Wood has chosen to submit a claim to the British Record Fish Committee, with the hope of having the history-making specimen ratified as a new official record. If given the thumbs up by authorities, it would comfortably beat Keith Berry's current 4lb 4oz record, taken from a Northern Ireland stillwater back in 2006, by over half a pound! Graham took to the water on a boat as he normally does on a Thursday afternoon at Carsington Water Fly Fishery, but it was to be a truly magnificent roach that took his fly on this occasion.

Sarah Peel, the managing director of Carsington Sports & Leisure Limited, said about the capture.

"We are a boat-only trout fishery, and to see a fish like this surprised us all, Mr Wood brought the fish ashore straight away as he knew the fish was very special," Sarah told us. "We are all very excited to have a potential British record living in our fishery, but as with all things like this, we are currently awaiting verification from the relevant authorities and BRFC to confirm the fish is a true roach."

"The fish was weighed on several sets of scales to confirm the weight, and should the fish be accepted, the scales will have to be verified."

"With such a fantastic capture, it is difficult not to get too excited, but we will try not to get ahead of ourselves until we know more, Mr Wood is however is over the moon with his capture," Sarah concluded.

Alien weed invasion

TRAVEL ROD WINNER

Q How damaging is giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed to rivers?

Terry Greenly, via email.

A Dr Ian Welch says...

Giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed – and I would add Himalayan balsam to the list, too – are all designated as invasive, non-native species, or INNS.

In their natural, native environment, animals and plant species have evolved and adapted to a particular environmental niche, in parallel with competitive species, parasites, pests and diseases, all of which help to restrict and control that organism.

When a particular organism is transported out of its native environment and introduced to a new one, usually as a result of human activity, it will often be free from competition and its natural enemies and, as in the case of the plant species referred to here, able to out-compete native species and 'escape' into the wider environment.

The result of these plant escapes into the wider environment is varied, but usually involves a degree of habitat destruction and a loss of biodiversity – with the potential to cause the extinction of native species and to radically change the landscape, with flooding and erosion particular concerns in and around the riverine environment. Indeed, concern is such that it is against the law to plant or to encourage any of these three species to grow in the UK and Ireland.

■ For more information on all non-native species, both plant and animal, and their control, visit www.nonnativespecies.org – a great resource for all anglers, landowners, fishery managers and conservationists.

Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

Native to Russia and brought to the UK by Victorian plant collectors (as any Peter Gabriel-era Genesis fan will tell you...), giant hogweed is a huge biennial plant, reaching over five metres in height, that has escaped parkland and ornamental gardens into which it was originally introduced, and colonised many river corridors.

Not that common, hogweed does pose a threat to native plant species by forming dense colonies, which can shade and prevent growth in the underlying areas. Its main threat to anglers is, however, the fact that its sap is phototoxic and can cause severe blistering and burning if it comes into contact with skin, and even temporary blindness if it touches an eye, and the effect may be so severe as to require medical attention. For this reason alone it is worth learning to recognise it – and avoid it.



Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*)

As the name suggests, this plant was originally native to Japan, and indeed China and much of East Asia. It was brought to Europe in the latter part of the 19th Century, and quickly established itself as an aggressive coloniser that can spread rapidly – with the impressive ability to even grow up through concrete and tarmac.

Tolerant of the poorest of conditions, and forming dense stands up to four metres tall, perennial, bamboo-like, knotweed reduces biodiversity by out-competing native plant species, and its ability to adversely impact upon flood management schemes makes it potentially a hugely damaging species. Its ability to re-grow from tiny fragments of plant means that it is deemed to be 'controlled waste', which can only be disposed of at licensed landfill sites.

Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*)

Introduced from the Himalayan region of Kashmir to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, at around the same time as giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed, in the

Victorian era, Himalayan balsam is the tallest annual plant in the UK, reaching three metres in height. Escaping from the gardens in the 1850s, the Himalayan balsam rapidly started to colonise riverbanks, and is now widespread, forming monoculture along many.

With its 'spring-loaded' seedpods firing seeds several metres away from the parent plant, it spreads incredibly rapidly, massively out-competing and forcing out native species. Its copious nectar production, the large number of flowers that it produces and long flowering season also have an impact upon the pollination of native plant species, and indeed upon the population numbers of native insect species.

With winter die-back of the massive stands of plants, river banks colonised by the species are left barren, with the soil exposed and vulnerable to erosion during flood episodes, with consequences for siltation, flood management and river engineering.



Urban killers

● 'Conservationists' want fish euthanised ● Scene of top carp film under threat

THE lake at the centre of storm over 'conservationists' wishing to kill all of its fish was the scene of one of carp angling's most popular videos.

Bristol's St. George's Park Lake had been a fishing venue for over 20 years until last year, when the local Neighbourhood Partnership voted to ban angling, citing harm caused to wildlife by hooks and line as the reason.

But it seems local anglers, some of whom had fished the venue for years, ignored the ban and carried on as normal, and the Partnership has responded by agreeing to a proposal by Bristol City Council to destroy all of the stock – the 'cheapest solution' apparently.

A council spokesperson said: "The fish will be humanely euthanised using an overdose of anaesthetic. If opportunities arise to relocate some or all of them, we will of course explore and consider them."

The proposals have even caused disagreement between local groups, with the Friends of St. George Park Group publicly stating it doesn't support the killing of the fish.

There have also been claims that the fish are in bad health, but a Nash Tackle Urban Banx film shot at the venue contradicts that, and also shows how anti-angling some involved with the park are.

The massively popular Urban Banx 7 film featured Alan Blair



■ Urban Banx star Alan Blair notoriously chatted to this woman, who was against angling at St. George's Park Lake. The venue's fish now face a death sentence by 'conservationists', who want to euthanise them all.

catching carp to over 20 lb, and was shot by *Mail* contributor Carl Smith. It also featured a local woman keen to give her view on anglers and angling!

Carl revealed: "I think she came over to us because she saw the camera and she had a long debate with Alan about how fishing shouldn't be encouraged, and claimed wildlife was being harmed. We used quite a bit of that and most of the comments about the film were about that!"

"In complete contrast, a few minutes later a couple with their grandson came past when Alan had a fish and got chatting, and

the kid left wanting to give fishing a go.

"It is a heavily-stocked venue, as there are a few original mirrors that go to over 20 lb, but also a lot of 4-8 lb commons. But the fish we caught were all in good condition with no sign of damage other than the odd split fin, which you'd expect on an old fish, and no parasites. They were just a bit paler than gravel pit fish, due to the water colour.

"To be honest, they have had problems with line being left in trees when people have cast to the island, and there have been incidences where birds have got tangled up. But surely the answer isn't to kill thousands of fish to save the birds, in the name of conservation!" added Carl, of Carl & Alex YouTube fame.

Surely the answer isn't to kill thousands of fish.

Carl Smith



■ Urban Banx captured the realities of fishing at the park lake, as well as showing the quality of its fishy residents.

Des Ship

Match Reports

3 April

2nd go at fishomania today at boldings fishery.

Drew peg 32 chestnut lake, was told it was a good peg and was on a point, getting to the peg it looked nice with the breeze of my right shoulder even though it turned right around half way through, and the peg is in the middle of the lake, I was very surprised plumbing up it was 8 foot deep at 11 mtr and on a top kit plus one it was getting

on for 6 foot so definitely fancied it for a bit of shallow fishing. Set up several rigs to cover the day, started short top kit plus 1 on pellets for a few decent skimmers but it died off very fast, tried top kit plus 2 for nothing so shallow it was then, this was slow but could catch odd f1 and good size skimmers, Chris Riley to my right around the corner from me and Andrew McMann opposite to him were both catching shallow well. Stuck to fishing shallow for most of the match and caught in spells when I thought here we go but went as fast as they come whilst Chris's peg got stronger, caught a few fish late short on the deck again on maggots and finished with 123 lb that included nearly 40 lb of skimmers, it was great fishing but frustrating knowing that I was never going to catch up Chris, he finished really strong and went on to win the day with 172 lb, well done mate and good luck in the final, the venue has fished brilliant with lots of great weights and well done to the framers. 11 dura through a short kit was lovely and fished between 18 inch and 3 foot to keep bites coming, feed 4 pints of maggots and used a 16 SFL tied to 0.11 power line.



6 April

Maver match this qualifier at Woodland's view fishery. First port of call was to try and get a good draw especially with a gale force wind ready and waiting. Drew out peg 8 on Arles lake, was definitely up against it from this area and as I couldn't catch short it wasn't a great start either, with the wind side on and really strong so I decided to try feeding casters as far as I could throw them and fishing maggots or worm hook baits, had a great days sport catching f1 mostly around the 1 lb mark and probably over fed it trying to force them up shallow as it didn't work, tough conditions today and could only hold top kit plus 3, finished with 94 lb that I felt was good from the area but miles off the winning weights. So Massive well done to Callum Dicks taking the match out with 154 lb and qualifying for the final from peg 18 Arles lake, well done mate. Used a 4+14 f1 maggot but could of done with a 4+16, hook was a 16 SFL tied to 0.11 power and 11 dura



9 April

Two matches to catch up on. Sunday I travelled to cob house with Zoe having a look at Wyatts lakes as she's got the ultimate fishing competition final in may. The wind was terrible but at least on peg 23 it was slightly off my left shoulder and could hold the pole, it was towing like a river and had a terrible first couple of hours to be honest so started fishing for everything over ground bait (chunky fish) and caught some proper big bream,



not many bites but quality fish. Finished with 4 carp for 28lb and 62lb of silvers for a total of 91lb that was 2nd on the day, well done to stu winning with 212 lb and Zoe catching 60lb on her first match there.

Today I fished Bitterwell lakes silver fish open trying to qualify for the later final. Got caught in traffic so my draw was done for me, travelling there and getting pushed all over the motorway with the gale force wind I was praying for a peg out of the wind. You guessed it peg 18 with the wind smashing straight into me. Mixed up my normal thatchers green and supercrush, trying to get any presentation was not easy as the tow was coming back under the pole. Had a few skimmers in the first hour or so, fished a ICS method mid match for at round 6 skimmers until I had a little spell on the pole with 2 hours to go including two 2 lb tench on my long line late, finished with 25lb that again got me second ??, well done to Paul winning with 38 lb of waggler caught tench and skimmers. Not sure about you guys and girls but I've had it with this weather



First day of the guru festival here at whiteacres. Drew peg 3 on python lake, my section went from peg 2 to 9 but with the gale force side wind it certainly was going to be a difficult one. max I could fish was top kit plus 3 and that was at a push. caught on pellets and meat short and finished with 55 lb that thankfully won the section and a bonus of being second on the lake, pol-lawyn lake tomorrow and hopefully get out of this bloody wind



17 April Last two days here at white acres. Yesterday i dew peg 29 pollawyn lake, definitely up against it especially with 26 not drawn. had a very slow start but did start catching on the long pole with pellets and was hoping to get them up shallow. Last two hours I really struggled to catch anything to be honest but hanged in there to finish with 49 lb that got me second behind Andy Geldarts 108 lb caught shallow from peg 27.

Today it was my rotation on twin oaks and was hoping for a good peg, when I saw peg 3 I was gutted. after having a look short for a 3 oz f1 I was on the straight lead were I only caught 2 carp in the first hour or so whilst Andy Crocker on peg 5 (3 days in a row next to him) caught around 40 plus lb on the.lead and the guy on peg 2 to my left was catching on the feeder, changed to the feeder but couldn't catch for ages but then I had a run of good f1 and one good carp and felt i was clawing back, unfortunately fishing short I caught some big f1 but the guy on peg 2 caught really well short and mostly carp, Andy on peg 5 also had a few carp short. At the finish my 71 lb was only good enough for third but felt I done ok from the peg. Well done to Andy on 5 winning the section and lake with 96 lb and the guy on 2 with 88 lb. 18 th at the moment so need a good last two days, wish I could draw my own pegs

Very late post from the white acres guru festival last week. Thursday & Friday went like this...drew peg 2 on Trelawney that's one off of the end peg. I caught a couple of smaller carp & some f1's on a small ICS 20 gram method. I tried the long pole for just one f1 and was soon back on the feeder, this was my match changing from short pole for silvers and a feeder until luckily my short meat line came alive where the f1's rocked up. Finished up with 78lb that won my section and second on the lake , this left me 15th so needed a first Friday to possibly sneak in the top 10.

Last day saw me get me the best peg I had all week peg 15 on Jenny's lake. had a brilliant run on the method feeder catching some good carp and f1's to the point of the island and fished it for a good 2 hours or more before trying the long pole on pellets, had some carrasio until Wayne on peg 16 started catching in his margin. I had been priming mine ready so took a look and it was definitely a red letter day as I caught around 80lb in just over a hour, it was great fishing and at the all out I weighed 189lb that won my lake this also managed to climb me up a few spaces on the score board finishing the week in 9th position, and a qualification into the Preston festival later in the year

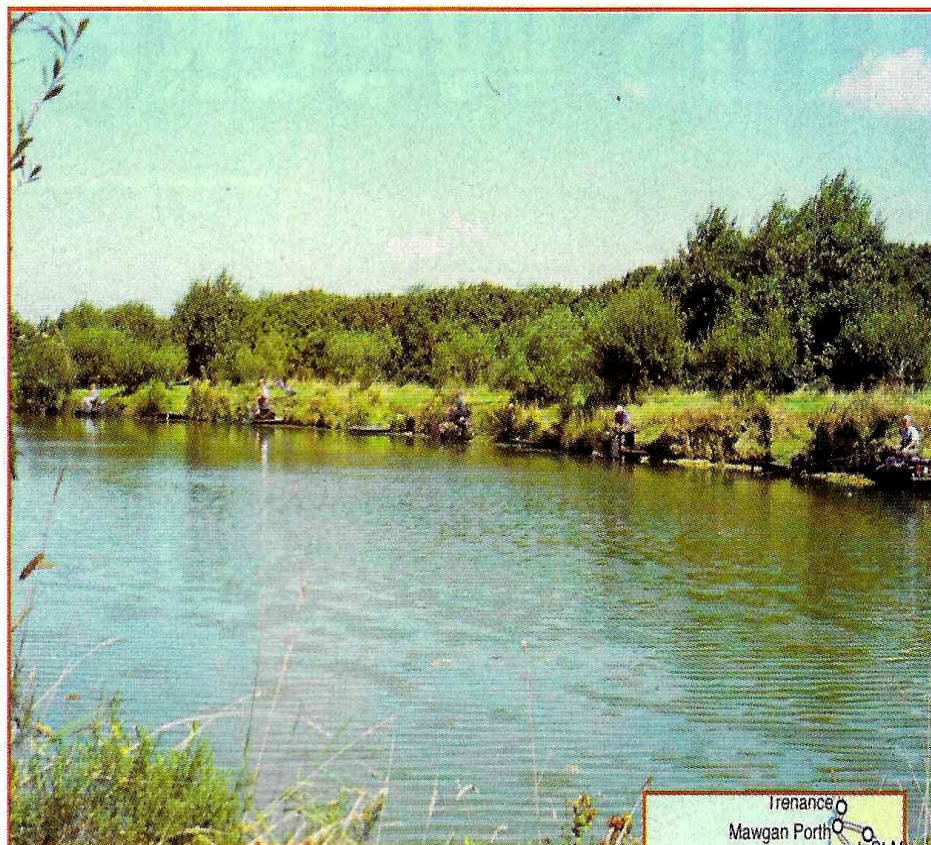


Tactical Briefing

GWINEAR POOLS, CUBERT, NEWQUAY, CORNWALL

DESCRIPTION. Set in the lush Cornish countryside this famous fishery boasts a three acre Specimen Lake and a five acre, 60 peg, Match Lake. They average 8 ft deep and have feature islands. Specimen has mirrors to 31 lb, commons to 25 lb, bream to 5 lb, perch to 3 lb, roach to 2 lb, plus eels and gudgeon. Match has carp to 12 lb, bream to 4 lb, roach to 2 lb 8 oz plus perch to 2 lb.

TACTICS. On the Specimen Lake fish for carp and some of the better bream with legered hair-rigged halibut pellets, meat, boilies or multiples of corn. On the Match Lake float fish corn, caster, maggot or soft pellet, all over loose feed on a little and often principle. Combining chopped worm with caster is a good tactic



for a mixed bag on the Match Lake.

GOOD SWIMS. As indicated on the fishery plan.

TICKETS. £6 per day, under-18s and OAPs £4. After 5 pm permits are £4 and £3 respectively. Tickets from the kiosk on the way in. No boilies or meat on the Match Lake. Fishing dawn until dusk only. Barbless hooks only, disabled access, no keepnets, toilets on site.

Tel: 01637 830165. South West byelaws. Open all year.

LOCAL TACKLE SHOP. Atlantic Tackle, Newquay. Tel: 01637 850777.

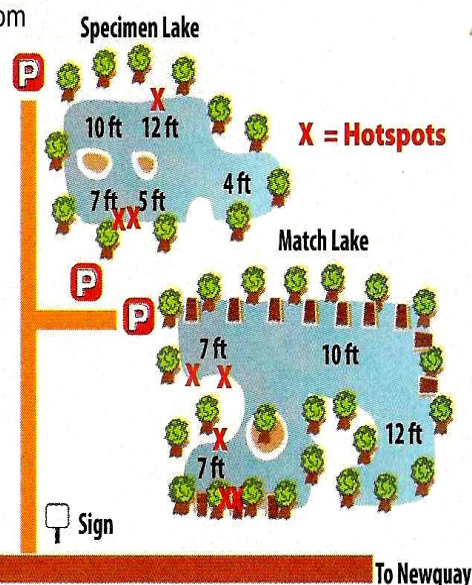
LOCATION. From

Newquay head south towards Goonhavern, picking up the A3075. After three miles turn right at the fishery sign to the lakes and parking.



TOP TIP

Careful plumbing can lead to better results, there are a few deeper areas on both lakes and they do tend to produce carp.



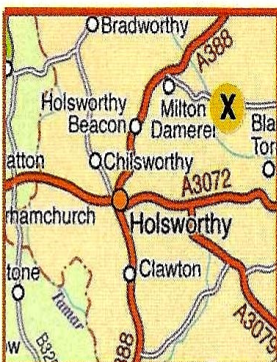
Tactical Briefing

WOODACOTT ARMS HOLIDAY PARK, THORNBURY, HOLSWORTHY, DEVON

DESCRIPTION.

Bungalow and caravan accommodation is available here with two very attractive fishing pools with islands. They average 6 ft deep, the 1.25 acre Top Pool is stocked with carp to 28 lb, averaging 11 lb. Also tench and eels to 7 lb 8 oz, perch to 4 lb 10 oz, bream to 4 lb, crucians to 3 lb plus roach and rudd to 2 lb plus odd koi. The 0.75 acre Bottom Pool is similarly stocked but carp go to 18 lb and tench to 4 lb.

TACTICS. For carp leger hair-rigged meat or corn to the islands, ordinary yellow corn works best or try spicy flavoured meat. In the warmer weather carp can be caught off the surface on crust or dog biscuits on the bottom lake. Tench and bream accept meat but also show to float fished corn. Perch to worms or several red maggots. Float fish maggot or caster, over



loose feed, for mixed sport.

GOOD SWIMS. Try any of the deeper water areas for winter carp or the far bank on the Bottom Pool.

TICKETS. £6 per day, under-16s £3 on the bank. Night fishing by strict prior arrangement. Nets must be dipped. Day tickets apply from dawn until dusk only. No carp in keepnets. Barbless hooks only, disabled access, toilets on site, food available. Enquiries: 01409 261162. South West byelaws. Open all year.

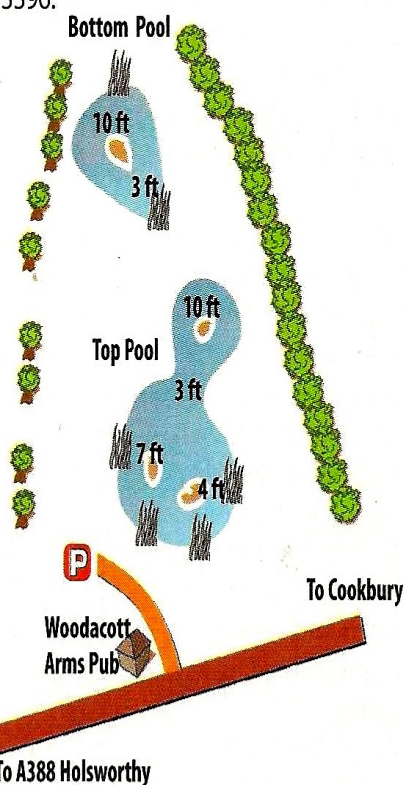
LOCAL TACKLE SHOP. Bude Angling Supplies,

Bude. Tel: 01288 353396.

LOCATION. From Holsworthy take the A388 north to Holsworthy Beacon. From here simply follow all the signs for the Woodacott Arms.

TOP TIP

Try very close to the bank for a 'last hour' carp.



Tactical Briefing

QUARRY FARM POOL, ASTON EYRE, BRIDGNORTH, SHROPSHIRE

DESCRIPTION. A fairly open, privately owned mushroom shaped pool with reed fringed banks, no islands or hidden snags. The average depth is 6-8 ft, this venue is well stocked with carp to 20 lb, ghosties to 18 lb, koi to 8 lb, golden orfe to 6 lb 8 oz, tench to 6 lb, some chub to 4 lb, perch to 3 lb 15 oz, goldfish and crucian crosses to 2 lb 8 oz, crucians to 2 lb, some roach to 1 lb 8 oz and lots of rudd and golden rudd to 1 lb.

TACTICS. For the big carp try fishing in the margins with float fished meat, corn, pellet or various pastes. Use the same baits for bulk catches of carp at 8-12 metres. Bags knocking 200 lb are possible in summer, 100 lb in winter. For mixed sport fish soft pellet, maggot or caster over loose feed, expect the odd carp.

GOOD SWIMS. As indicated on the fishery

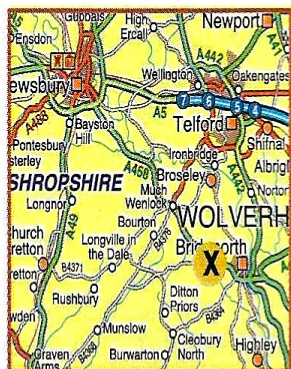


TOP TIP

As winter approaches a small feeder approach works well, load it with on site bought feed pellets and fish corn or maggot on the hook.

plan.

TICKETS. £5 per day, registered disabled, OAPs and under-15s £4, on the bank. Fishing 7 am to dusk only. No boilies, trout pellets, Method feeders, braid or floating baits. Only feed pellets bought on site to be used, barbless hooks only, disabled access, no keepnets. Midlands byelaws. Enquiries: 01746



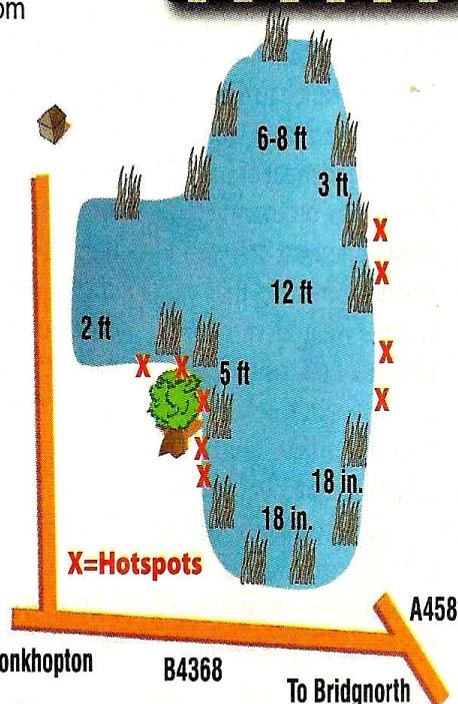
714281. Open all year.

LOCAL TACKLE SHOP.

Bridgnorth Tackle,
Bridgnorth.
Tel: 01746 767286.

LOCATION.

From Bridgnorth take the A458 to Morville. At Morville take the B4368 on the left to Aston Eyre. Pass Aston Eyre church and the pool is half a mile further on, on the right.



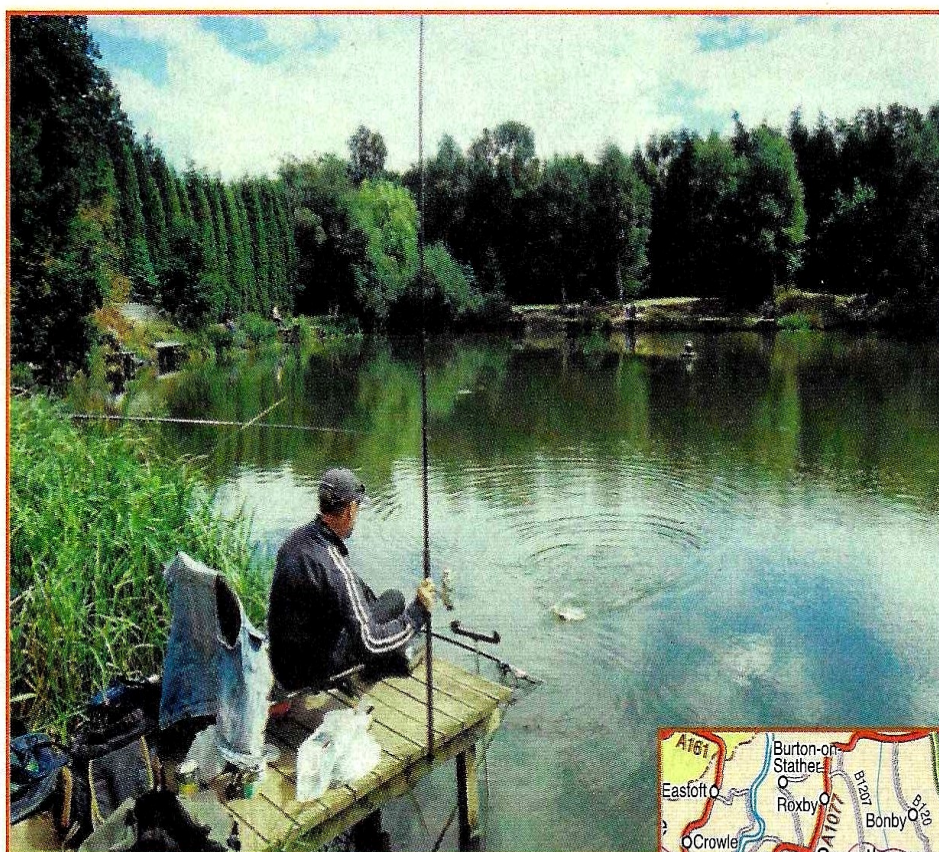
Tactical Briefing

WOODLANDS, SCOTTER, NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

DESCRIPTION. This privately owned, disabled friendly one acre pool is best described as an 'easy' water to fish and suits anglers of all age groups and abilities. It is tree lined and around 6 ft deep. It's very well stocked with a good mix of species including common and mirror carp to 30 lb, ghosties to 16 lb, a handful of grasses to 8 lb, tench to 6 lb, bream to 4 lb, a good head of crucians to 1 lb 8 oz, roach to 1 lb and countless golden rudd to 8 oz.

TACTICS. If you have not been catching much lately, pay this pool a visit. Float fish a single maggot and it's sure to be snaffled up by a rudd! For carp try hair-rigged meat or flake, in warmer spells surface fishing crust or dog biscuits provides quality sport. Tench to float fished corn or redworms. Float fish corn or a tiny piece of meat for mixed catches. Silver fish bags to caster.

GOOD SWIMS. All swims produce, the reedbed areas can be exceptional on their



day.

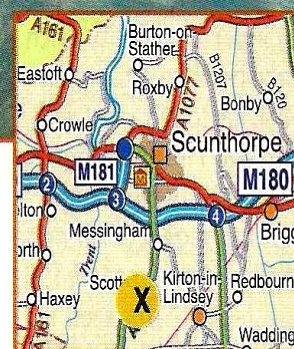
TICKETS. £5 per day, on the bank. Fishing down until dusk only. Disabled access, toilets on site, no keepnets, barbless hooks only. North East byelaws. Tel: 01427 629180. Open June 16 to March 31.

LOCAL TACKLE SHOP. The Tackle Shop, Gainsborough. Tel: 01427 613002.

LOCATION. From

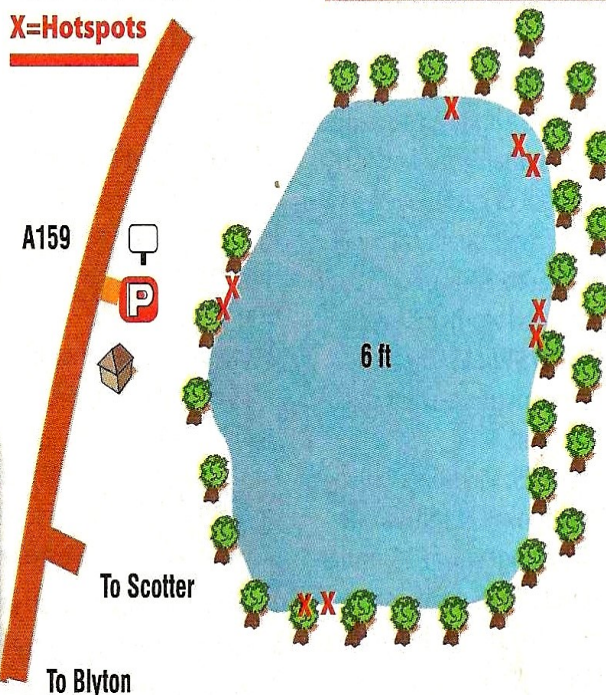
Scunthorpe take the A159 south. Pass through Scotter and turn left, at the fishery sign, for parking.

X=Hotspots



TOP TIP

If you want to avoid the attentions of small rudd leave your maggots at home!



Tactical Briefing

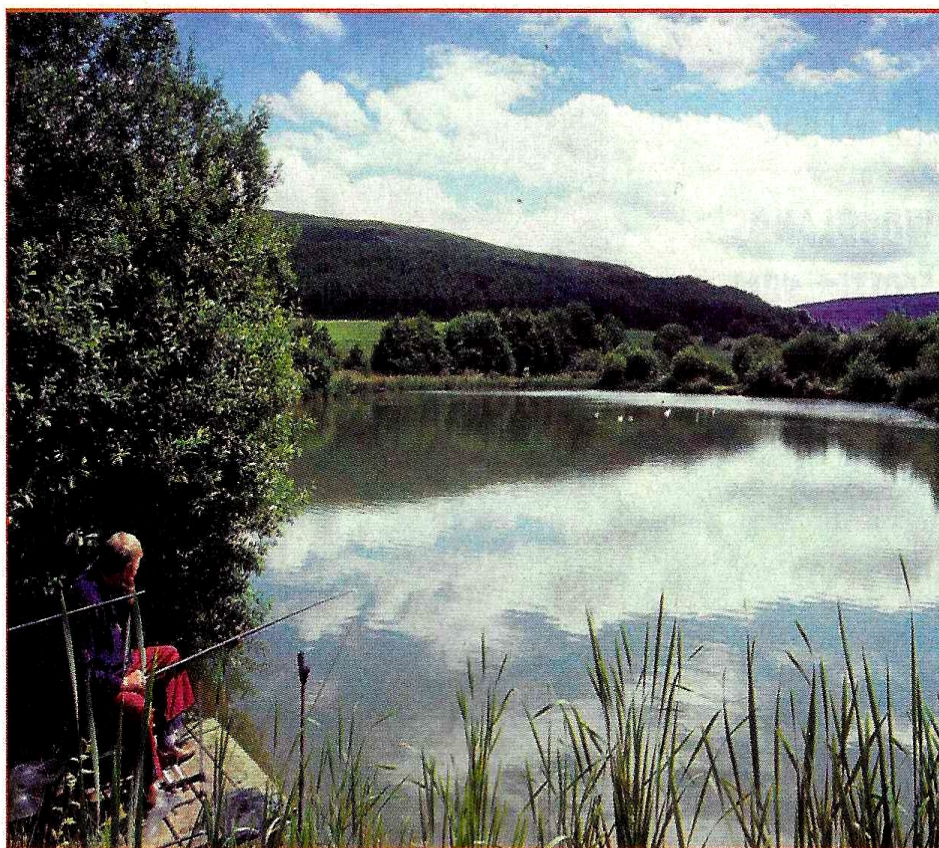
ASCOTT PONDS, FACEBY, NORTH YORKSHIRE

DESCRIPTION. Thornaby AA control the fishing on these two very scenic, tree fringed pools. Top Pool measures up at two acres while Middle Pool has a feature island and is half an acre. Both average 6 ft and contain common and mirror carp to 15 lb, tench and perch to 4 lb, bream and ide to 2 lb, roach and rudd to 1 lb plus gudgeon.

TACTICS. For the bigger carp try legering hair-rigged halibut pellets or Swim Stim paste over hemp feed. For tench, float fish chopped worm, corn or maggot. For roach and rudd, odd ide too, use a light float set-up with a small hook and fish maggot or caster over loose feed, quality fish will appear too. Try a worm over chopped worm for perch.

GOOD SWIMS. The corner pegs are sometimes favoured.

TICKETS. Members Only. Yearbooks £26, plus a one off joining fee of £26, under-16s £5. Costs cover many other venues. Fishing dawn until dusk only. Barbless



hooks only, disabled access. Membership from 01642 585770. North East byelaws. Open all year.

LOCAL TACKLE SHOP. Cleveland Angling Centre, Thornaby. Tel: 01642 677000.

LOCATION. From Thirsk take the A19 heading north towards Teesside. Take a turn right onto the A172 towards Stokesley. Turn right for Faceby and turn right again by the pub in

Faceby. Go down here, pass the farm on your left and the fishery and car park are down a track on the right.

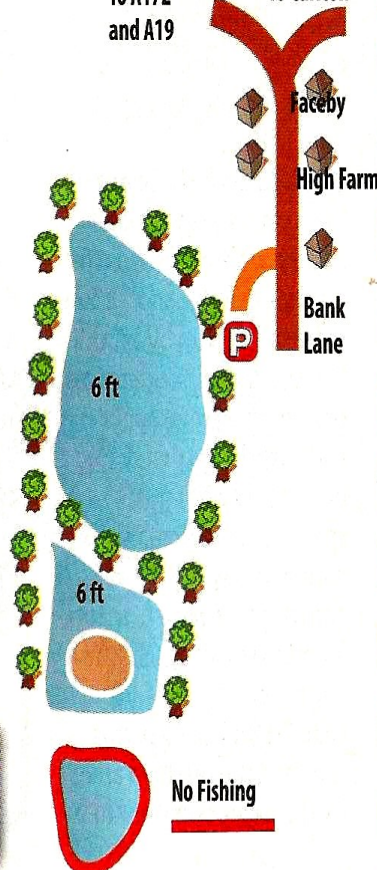


TOP TIP

Quality bags of roach and the odd ide, can be taken here on maggot in the winter months.

To A172 and A19

To Carlton



Tactical Briefing

COPTHORNE FISHERY, NATEBY, LANCASHIRE

DESCRIPTION.

A modern day commercial fishery with log cabin accommodation available. There's a mixture of varying sized canals, ponds and lakes in the 3-6 ft deep category. These well stocked waters contain common and mirror carp to 30 lb, ghosties to 12 lb, bream and chub to 6 lb, a few tench to 4 lb, ide, golden orfe and perch to 2 lb plus a very good head of roach, with rudd, to 1 lb 8 oz. The bigger carp are in the Main Lake.

TACTICS. On the Main Lake leger hair-rigged meat or a few grains of corn into the open water. On the smaller waters float fish soft pellet, corn or meat for bulk catches of smaller carp. On the canals pole fish chopped worm, caster or corn for mixed catches, including plenty of chub. Mixed silver fish catches, lots of roach, to float fished maggot or caster, over a little loose feed.

GOOD SWIMS. Anywhere for big carp on the Main Lake. The bridge area on the Old Canal holds numbers of quality chub.

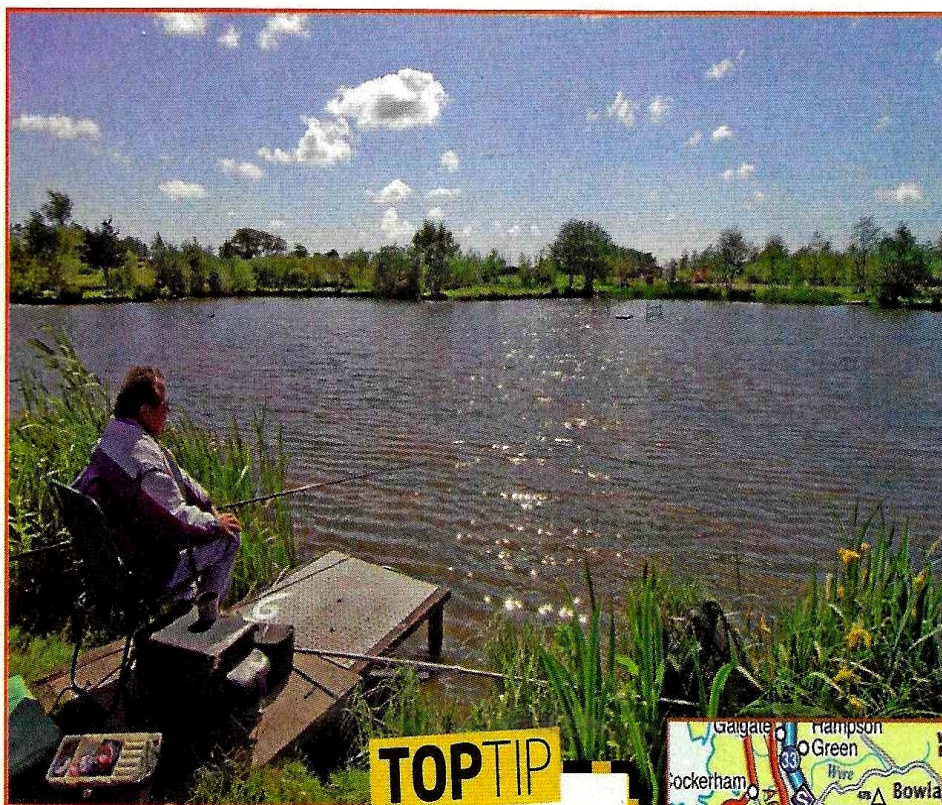
TICKETS. £6 per day, OAPs and

registered disabled £4 Mondays to Fridays only, on the bank. Fishing dawn to dusk in winter or 6 am to dusk in summer. No night fishing. Food available

Thursdays and weekends in winter, every day in summer. Barbless hooks only, disabled access, toilets. Tel: 01995 601100. North West byelaws. Open all year.

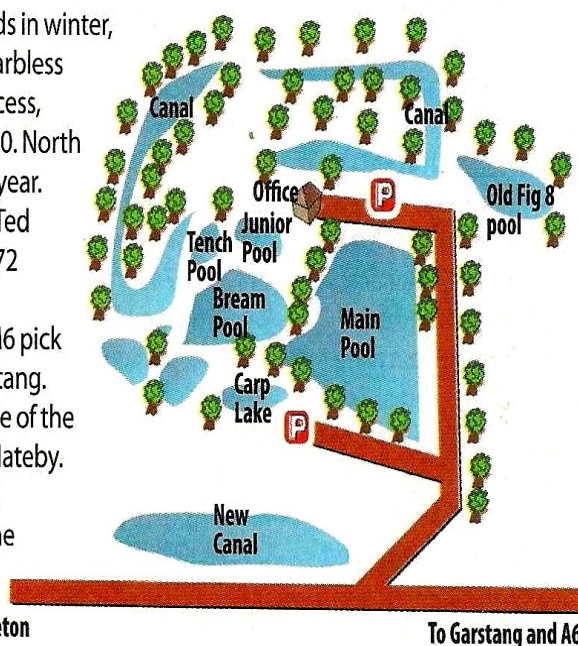
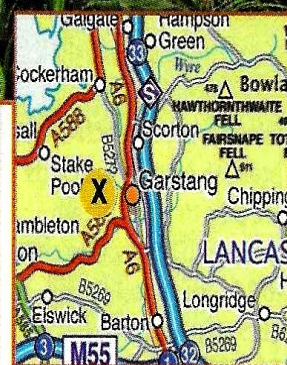
LOCAL TACKLE SHOP. Ted Carter, Preston. Tel: 01772 253476.

LOCATION. From J32 M6 pick up the A6 towards Garstang. Take the road up the side of the Flag pub on the left to Nateby. Go through Nateby and after one mile Copthorne Fishery is on the right.



TOP TIP

The Main Lake fishes exceptionally well in winter for bags of quality roach to caster or maggot.



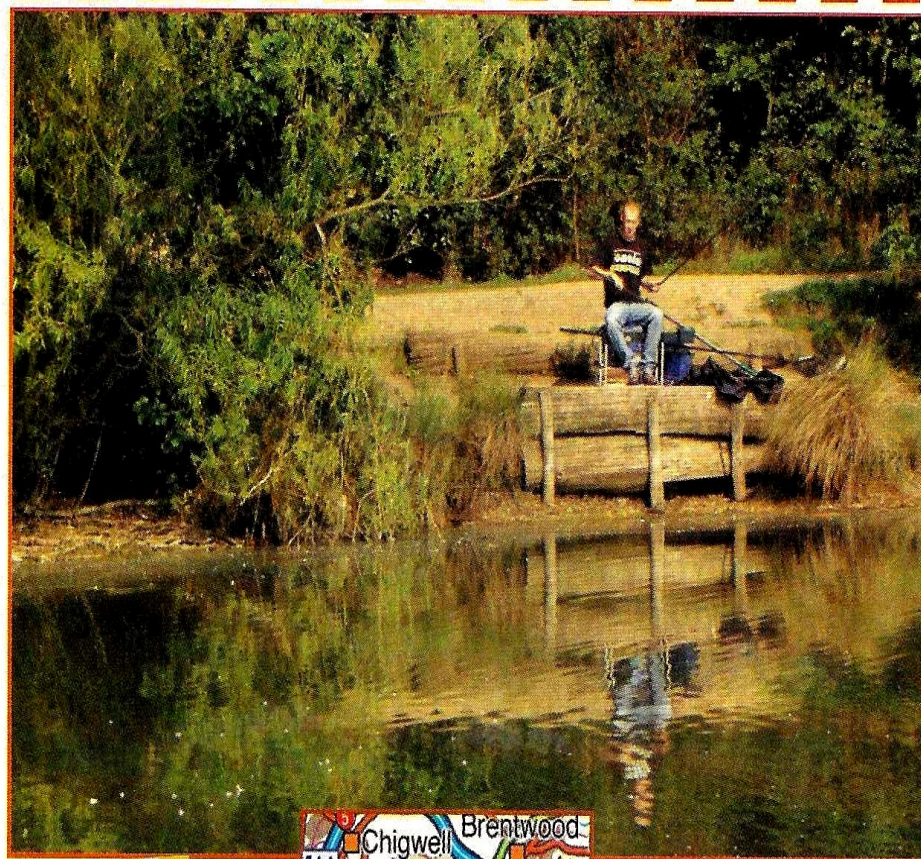
Tactical Briefing

BELHUS WOODS COUNTRY PARK, AVELEY, ESSEX

DESCRIPTION. Two former gravel working lakes, averaging 8 ft, and spanning about five acres each, set in this country park. Swan Lake, nearest the Visitor Centre, has an island and is stocked with carp to 30 lb, bream to 12 lb, tench to 9 lb, perch to 2 lb 8 oz plus roach and rudd to 2 lb. Figure-of-Eight has very similar stocks but no bream and a few catfish topping 30 lb.

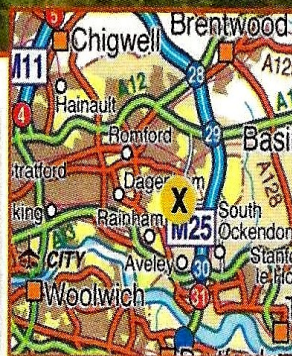
TACTICS. Leger hair-rigged fruit flavoured - pineapple and strawberry are best, boilies over PVA bagged samples for the big carp. Bream tend to be caught on boilies but can be targeted on feeder and redworm. Tench to float fished corn or maggot, perch to maggot or worm. Float fish maggot or caster, over loose feed, for roach and rudd.

GOOD SWIMS. On Swan Lake the north bank or cast to the island for carp.



TOP TIP

On the Figure-of-Eight Lake popped-up baits do best to avoid the thin covering of bottom weed.



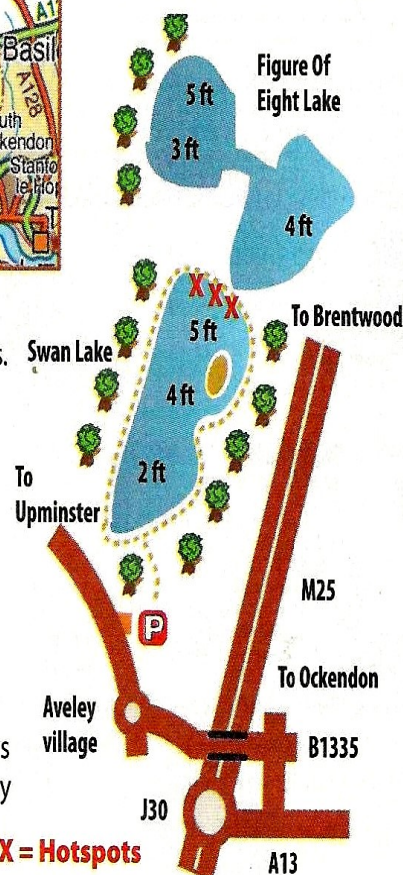
TICKETS. £4.70 per rod, under-16s, OAPs, registered disabled and unemployed £2 per rod. Maximum two rods. Tickets on the bank. Food available at weekends. Enquire about season permits. Fishing 8 am until dusk only. Barbless hooks only, disabled access, no keepnets, toilets. Enquiries: 01708

865628. Thames byelaws. Open all year.

LOCAL TACKLE SHOP.

Ockendon Bait and Tackle, Ockendon. Tel: 01708 856455.

LOCATION. From J31, M25 head for Aveley. From Aveley take the Romford road towards Upminster. After 1.5 miles (from Aveley) the Country Park is on the right.



Tactical Briefing

KENNET AND AVON CANAL, PADWORTH ROTA, PADWORTH, BERKSHIRE

DESCRIPTION. Reading DAA control this approximate 0.75 mile length of 11-12 metre wide canal with depths to 4 ft down the middle, and 2 ft on the marginal shelf. A good mixed fishery with a fair amount of tench to 4 lb present. Also on the cards are pike to 20 lb, bream and perch to 4 lb, odd chub to 3 lb, roach to 1 lb plus gudgeon and bleak.

TACTICS. For the tench, they show in winter too, try float fished bread flake, corn or chopped worm. Chopped worm can also sort out bream with the odd chub for good measure. Roach to squat and pinkie tactics, punched bread is a good winter option. Float fish a sea deadbait like mackerel or smelt for the chance of a good pike.

GOOD SWIMS. Any far bank feature or sedge bed should hold bream.



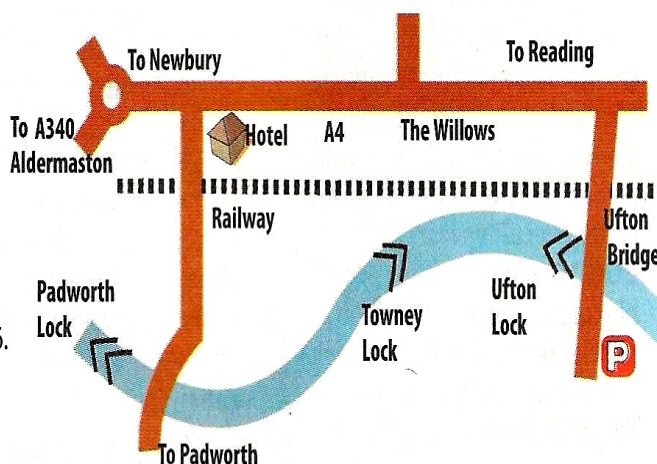
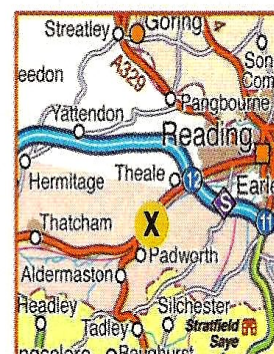
TICKETS. Members Only. For membership you need to join Reading DAA via a local club. Then adult membership is £40, OAPs £18 and under-17s £8 (excluding club costs). Associate members that live 35 miles or over from Reading are £50, OAPs £27, under-17s £12. Loads of other waters available. Membership details from 0118 986 7430. Website www.rdaa.co.uk Thames byelaws. Traditional Close Season.

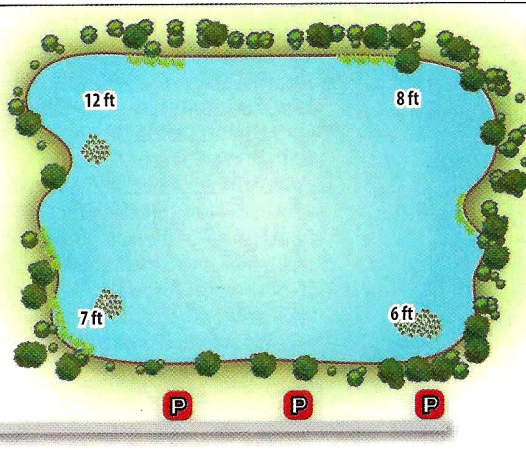
LOCAL TACKLE SHOP.

Reading Angling Centre, Reading. Tel: 01189 872216.

LOCATION. From Reading or J12 M4 take the A4

towards Newbury. Pass the Sulhamstead turn and turn left for Ufton Green. Cross the railway, canal then the river and use the car park on the left. Alternatively carry on the A4 and turn left by the Padworth Court Hotel to the canal bridge.







To Holsworthy

A388

To Launceston

TOP TIP

With a fishing shop and food outlet next door plus top class accommodation this is makes for a great holiday venue.

DUTSON WATER, DUTSON, LAUNCESTON, CORNWALL

DESCRIPTION. Treat yourself to an angling break in self-catering traditional cottage accommodation or via the Caravan Club site at this long established, well respected fishery. The lake, at just under one-acre, is well known for the amount of double-figure carp it produces, they run to over 22 lb. The venue has lily pad beds and depths to 12 ft. It also contains tench and bream to 6 lb, perch to 2 lb, plus roach and rudd to 1 lb 8 oz.

TACTICS. All the traditional carp tactics will score

but currently corn is probably the first choice of bait, others to try include luncheon meat and pellets. Float fish corn to the nearside lily pads for the chance of some decent tench and bream. For mixed catches, mainly roach, skimmers and rudd, float fish maggot under a light waggler float.

GOOD SWIMS. If the lily pads are visible try fishing as close to them as you can for tench.

TICKETS. £9 for the day, tickets in advance only from the farmhouse or the nearby tackle shop listed. Fishing 8am to dusk only. Disabled access.

Barbless hooks only. No carp or specimen tench in keepnets. Food available. Toilets. Enquiries: 01566 776456. South West byelaws. Open all year. Check out: www.farm-cottage.co.uk

LOCAL TACKLE SHOP. Homeleigh Garden Centre, Dutson, Launceston, PL15 9SP. Tel: 01566 773147. Check out: www.homeleighgardencentre.co.uk

LOCATION. From Launceston head north east on the A388. After 1.5 miles you will come to Dutson and fishery is through the gate on the right.

SAT NAV. PL15 9SP.

Tactical Briefing

DORSET STOUR, CHURCH FARM, WEST PARLEY, DORSET

DESCRIPTION. Controlled by Ringwood DAA this one and a half mile long stretch of the Stour offers terrific sport. The river here is a mix of gravel runs and deeper glides and holds specimens of various species. There are barbel to 12 lb and the chub that can top 7 lb. Also possible are roach to 2 lb 8 oz, perch to 3 lb, dace to 1 lb and winter pike to 25 lb.

TACTICS. Find a likely looking swim and try a rolling leger or feeder fished large pellet or meat for barbel. Float fish bread flake in the longer glides for chub. Float fish maggot or caster, over constant feed, for

roach, dace and chub. Winter pike show off the main flow to a float fished or legered sea deadbait. Hemp and tares for roach during late summer/autumn.

GOOD SWIMS. The faster gravel runs for the barbel.

TICKETS. Members only. Ringwood DAA season tickets are adults £130, £83 OAPs/registered disabled £83, both fees plus a one off £20 joining fee. 12-18s £50, adult accompanied 8-12s £7, both with no joining fee. Members can buy a guest ticket. Membership books apply for 12 months from when you join and are available from the tackle shop

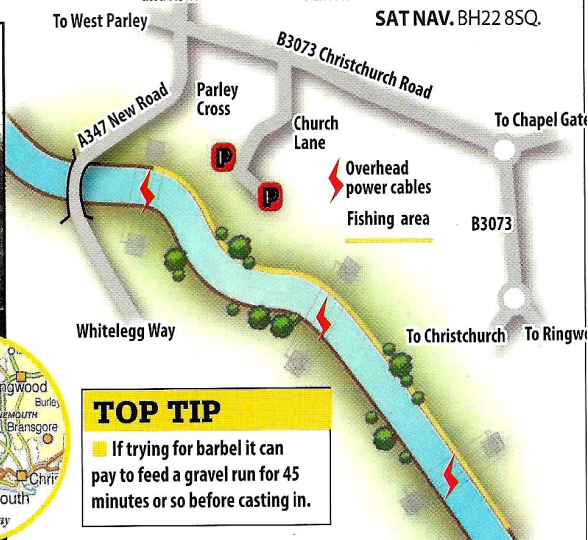
listed, website or 01202 871496. Food outlets nearby. Wessex byelaws. Traditional Close Season. Check out www.ringwoodfishing.co.uk

LOCAL TACKLE SHOP. Ringwood Tackle, Ringwood, BH24 1EA. Tel: 01425 475155.

LOCATION. From Hurn/Bournemouth Airport travel west on the B3073 and turn left at the Chapel Gate Roundabout. After a further half mile turn left into Church Lane, opposite the Equestrian Centre.

Go to the end of Church Road and park on the right by the wall or in Church Farm.

SAT NAV. BH22 8SQ.



TOP TIP

If trying for barbel it can pay to feed a gravel run for 45 minutes or so before casting in.

May Potter Match Reports

1st April

I've fished the Pairs match at Lindholme to-day. Mickys been ont pole I've been on the rods.

Micky drew for us. He drew himself 14 wil-lows and handed me 35 loco. I've had a busy day on the waggler to weigh 76lb 9oz. Micky's weighed 102lb 15oz meaning a combined weight of 179lb 8oz making us 2nd on day.



Mily Whitmore

4 April at 19:59

Soph had THE best day to-day fishing with the amazing May Potter!!!! Thanks so much for everything you taught her



May Potter is at Drennan Lindholme Leisure Lakes.

12 April at 18:13

My monstrous PB F1 weighing 8lb 8oz!

Happy FriYay to all of you, hope you have a fantastic weekend

FISHOMANIA QUALIFIER 1

Today I have been on peg 35 beeches

I've had a few short early on, the odd one shalla.

Rotated this most of the day, then snaffled 3 in the edge to weigh 82lb & a section win

Next outing is the Commercial National



Thursday open match on the willows lake at lindholme. I've been on peg 14 and had a very steady day for 31lb and no good! It's been a cold one!! Hopefully that's the bad one out the way before the national this weekend

FUND RAISING DATE

I'm running a match on Saturday 25th May at Drennan Lindholme Leisure Lakes. We'll be raising funds for the England Ladies Coarse Fishing Team. They'll be representing our country in the World Championships held in Portugal this August



These girls will be standing alongside the other members of the squad which are the current world champion Helen Dagnall

Samantha Sim

Leanne Knott

Kayleigh Dowd

May potter

We'll be fishing across Bonsai and Laurels. I hope you can come and join us in supporting our team

Draw at 9.

Fishing 11.00-4.30.

Entry is £30

£10 pegging

£10 to the team

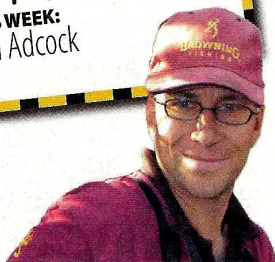
£10 for the payout

There will also be a raffle on the day

Payment through PayPal Friends and family to maypotter@me.com

COMPETITIVE EDGE

THIS WEEK:
Neil Adcock



Browning Hot Rod star Neil Adcock reveals his winning formula for quality mixed bags.

Mix and match

SUCCESS on managed stillwaters in East Anglia often requires something more subtle than an all-out carp attack.

Sure, the Flatlands have their share of 'carp soup' commercials. But many more venues demand a patient build-up with smaller species, with carp just the icing on the cake.

Although skilled on rivers and drains, Neil Adcock also loves the vibrant stillwater circuit. A recent recruit to the Browning Hot Rods squad, his ability on man-made venues is borne out by victory in July's £1,000 final at Lawn Farm Fishery. He's also hot property at Westside Farm, scene of today's feature.

Neil grew up in Watford but had a long break from fishing during academic studies, leading to a Cambridge University degree in History and Philosophy of Science. He settled in the area, eventually setting up his own

design company and getting back into fishing big-time.

So what's the story behind his Westside successes?

'My pattern of feeding aims to attract everything from the very smallest fish right through to the largest carp. This is best demonstrated on A Lake which is more of a mixed fishery and not as peggy as B,' explained Neil.

'You won't see any catapults. I only feed via pole pots to ensure total accuracy.

'What I do is plumb around and decide on two main swims. One will be close to the far bank. The slope is steep here and my bait will be pushed up against it, normally set around 3 ft give or take a bit depending on time of year.

'The other will be in deeper water, around 5 ft, at the bottom of the slope. These two swims should ideally be a few metres apart from each other, so it's best

Target

Mixed stillwater assortment.

Tactics

Cupping in small pellets and casters.

Venue

Westside Farm is a two lake complex at Whittlesford, near the Cambridgeshire/Essex border. No day tickets are sold but there's Sunday Opens and a summer evening series, plus club match bookings welcomed. Carp to 15 lb, chub, tench and bream to 4 lb, perch to 2 lb 8 oz, roach, rudd, crucians, goldfish and orfe. Enquiries to Cambridge tackle dealer Frank Farrington on 01223 461361.

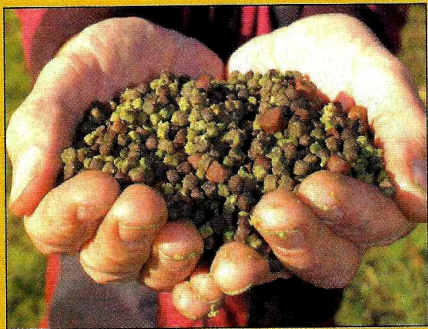


to go left or right with one of them. You're normally holding between 13 and 16 metres of pole.

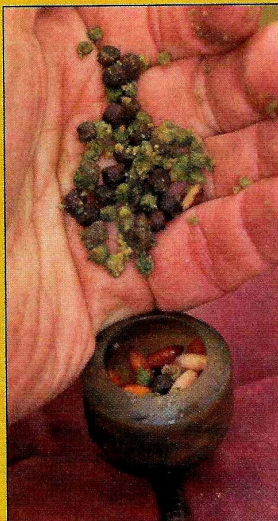
'If there's a bit of cover, like the lily

bed down to my left at this peg, I'll also feed an inside swim. This is normally a throwaway line, but sometimes it can pay dividends

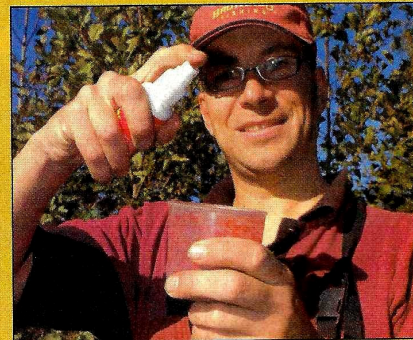
STEP BY STEP>>>>>



1 The basis of Neil's feed is three types of pre-soaked pellets; mini Dynamite Baits green Swim-Stims, 4 mm Browning Crazy Halibuts and 6 mm Crazy Krills. 'I mix them together. The Swim-Stims form a mush, bringing small fish in and attracting the interest of bigger fish. Then a few larger pellets keep them interested,' he reasoned.



2 Neil adds a ball of Browning Halibut BBQ groundbait, mixed on the dry side, plus a handful of casters and a sprinkling of corn to his large Polemaster cup for the initial feed. On his far line he drips a few pellets and casters in every drop, using a Fox Tossport attached to his pole tip for this purpose.



3 Starting bait is single or double red maggot, with caster, corn and expander pellets to follow as size of fish increases. He uses Ringer's and Van den Eynde RS Elites expanders and sprays them with Strawberry or Tutti Frutti Crazy Bait Juice.

Instruction



while you top up and rest the other swims,' he added.

The scene is set, so let's see how Neil fares.

GET OUT OF JAIL

As winter starts to bite, Neil rates floating maggot doused in a little Van den Eynde Scopex. He'll sometimes add a normal maggot for a bigger bait.



TACKLE BREAKDOWN

A Browning Champion's Choice 910 pole is Neil's weapon of choice. Elastic is Drennan Bungee yellow or white Hydrolastic. For shallow water Neil uses a 0.2 gr Browning Edge float, and in deeper water a finer tipped 4 x 12 Bob Nudd No.2 pattern. Line for both rigs is 0.165 mm Browning Cenitan with a 0.128 mm hook length of the same, terminating in a size 16 Kamasan B611. Barbed hooks are preferred here! 'It's a versatile hook, for anything from single maggot to two grains of corn,' he noted.

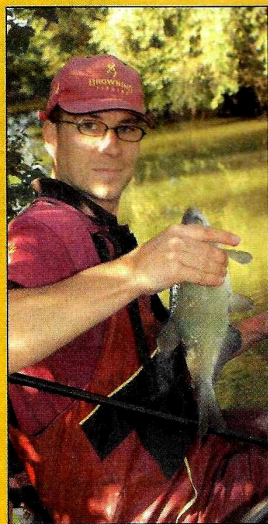
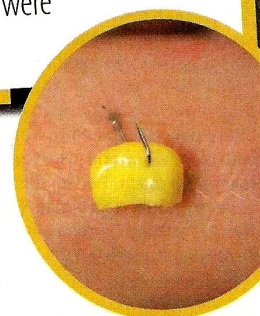


Proof of the Pudding

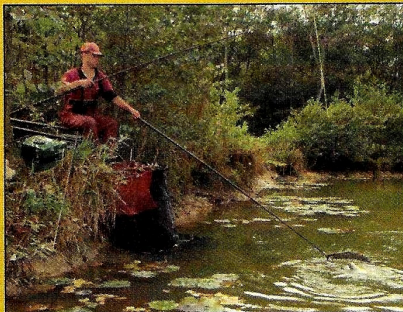
Three carp, a 2 lb 8 oz chub, goldfish, brownies, fantails, crucians, skimmers, roach, rudd and perch for a 20 lb-plus total underline that Neil's tactics tempt anything with fins! Tench and orfe were the only species missing.

HOOK POINT

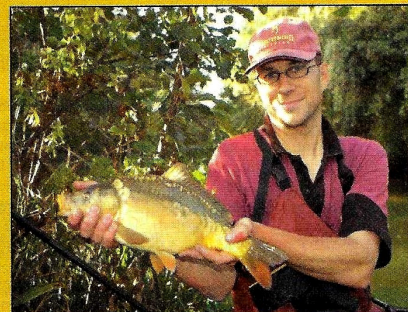
Try slightly flattening a grain of sweetcorn so it flutters down attractively. Being such a visual bait, bites often come on the drop.



4 Roach, rudd, perch, occasional mini carp and goldfish are the early takers. Neil finds single caster best in the deeper water, with the far line proving fruitless initially. But he keeps up the drip feed play after potting in more bait to the deeper line. Eventually a 10 oz skimmer is the day's first fish to require the landing net, to single caster in the deeper swim.



5 Eventually the float sinks on the far line and a 3 lb-plus carp is played to the net. It took single caster. Neil re-feeds and drops back in but his next fish is a small rudd. 'That's the pattern here. You can't risk upping the feed in the hope of bagging up on big fish. Just pick them off as they turn up and you won't go far wrong,' he advises.



6 With less action in the deep water now, Neil's far line occupies the final half of a five-hour Westside A Lake session. Bigger baits come into play and a chub plus two more carp – one to expander pellet and one to corn – bring the day to a conclusion. The inside line yielded a couple of 6 oz fantails. Proof that the rotation system and pellet/caster combo is a winner!

Bob Nudd Match Reports



Just got back from a lovely holiday. Looking forward to my first match tomorrow



6 April

2nd on the lake today , it was all action 154 Ide plus some F1's for 159 lbs 3ozs Cupped in a big 250 mm pot of 2 mm and casters at 6 mts loose fed maggots over the top had a brilliant 1 st half of the match fishing 3 ft deep .15 gram DT steady float 16 hook .12 hook length spread shot thought I was on for 200 lbs but it slowed and then I had to fish over in 18 inches of water for the last half and it was not as good but still a great day. Meadow Farm Fishery Saturday open. Norwich Norfolk



Saturday 13th April

Lots of action for the first half of the match then in got tough , caught 118 Ide and some small tench for just over 123 lbs but no good needed 138 lbs to get in the money , still a lovely days fishing , sunshine 20 c just Tee shirt all match roll on summer.

Well my pairs partner(Daren Mallett) and myself just managed to get into the main frame finishing 5th in the 2 day open with 19 points only needed 16 points to win so it was a really close competition without any one team really dominating , I had a great first day finishing 2 nd on canal lake with 86 lbs , caught Ide at 15 mts on the drop then some shallow , loose fed mags and casters at 6 mts caught some Ide and F1's here as well last 2 hours the Ide dried up so switched feeding chopped worms and casters in a pole pot with worm on the hook this really worked well and I had a good run of F1's and Ide until the end, Daren finished 7 th but somehow with 9 points we were lying 3 rd. Day 2 was tougher for me I was on Willow Lake caught Ide against the Island loose feeding maggots it was shallow so I could use my up in the water rig only problem was the small roach managed to eliminate this by hooking the maggot through the middle , it was never brilliant caught the odd fish in the margins in the last hour I was getting desperate , I'd been loose feeding a few maggots to my right in the open water but couldn't make any more bites, another switch to tapping maggots in a small pot at 6 mts transformed the peg and I had a great last 30 mins finishing with just over 60 lbs and 5 points Daren had fished a blinder and also finished with 5 points from the toughest end of his section weighing over 77 lbs. As always an enjoyable weekend at this wonderful fishery always bites to be had if you work at it , one things for sure you never stop learning. 2 day pairs open Meadow Farm Cottages Fishery Norwich Norfolk



2 nd on my lake 28/04/24 with just over 86lbs full blog tonight 2 day pairs open Meadow Farm Fishery
Norwich

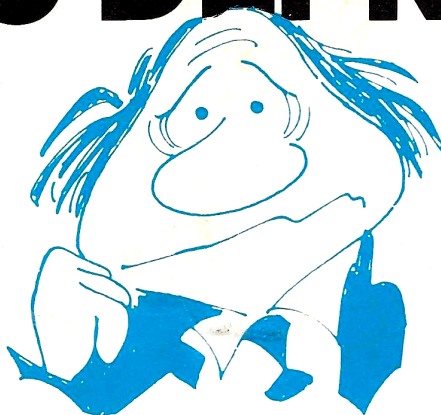


More reasons for being a **MANIC DEPRESSIVE**

WHAT ARE you going to do if angling as a sport is banned, whether it is banned 'en masse' along with other field sports or whether hunting is banned first, followed by shooting a few years later and fishing a few years after that? The majority of you will do the same as you always do when something happens that you don't like: you'll just sit around and moan. But it will be too late — by then the damage will have been done. You'll sit crying into your beer, saying 'Why didn't 'they' do something, why didn't 'they' protect our right to go fishing and why don't 'they' try and reverse the situation cos it might not be too late if they're quick enough?'

This wonderful person, 'they', who the majority of you think can wave a magic wand and put everything to rights is on every club committee all over the country, and anglers find work for him whilst sleeping rough, pretending to be fishing under the guise of 'putting in the hours'. 'They' should cut that undergrowth back and 'they' should put some platforms in; any idea that springs to mind it's 'they' that gets lumbered with the job. When is old 'they' going to be allowed to retire and his young apprentice, 'we', be allowed to take over the job?

Next time you see a job that needs doing



By Derek Holden

on a club fishery, instead of ringing up the club secretary and demanding that it be done, why not suggest doing it yourself? Too much like hard work, eh? Don't want to get involved? Don't want to lose out on valuable fishing time? Thought so!

Much criticism is levelled at many club committees along the lines of them being too match orientated. Well; if it's only matchmen that bother to give up their time to run the club, is it at all surprising? If you

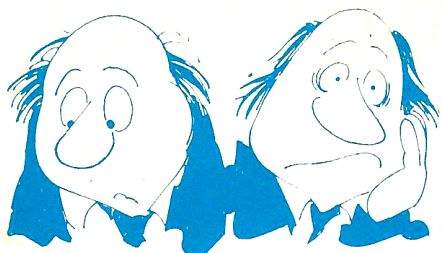
want changes within the club to your advantage, get yourself along to the AGM and get on the committee. Someone has got to do it and the reward is having the club and fisheries run the way you want them to be run. O.K, I know it's not always as easy as that and some committees will be found to be impenetrable by virtue of the obstinacy and longevity of some of the committee members, but there's also an equal number that run on a short quorum and are crying out for new blood. Changes start in small ways. Get yourself known, not as a stirrer, a trouble maker, but as someone who wants to help the club, and whenever possible go out of your way to support club functions such as dinner/dances and end of season raffles.

That's at club level. What about national level?

The only way to protect your (our) sport is to get involved. Get involved in the arguments in the local (and national) press; you're always quick enough to criticise someone else's efforts, especially if you don't think they've tried hard enough, so if you can write destructive letters to those that stand up and fight, why can't you write constructive letters and start fighting yourselves? The N.F.A. came under criticism recently when, in a press release, they stated that they were more

The vandals struck and the place was no longer the home of rod benders. Why didn't 'they' stop it? (Photo: Roy Forsberg).





More reasons for being a **MANIC DEPRESSIVE**

concerned with fighting for our (your) sport at parliamentary level and couldn't spare the time to reply to anti-angling letters and articles in papers and on television. People said that that is just what they *should* be doing; it's not, it's what *you* should be doing.

Get involved in keeping fisheries tidy. How many times have fishing rights been lost after the place has been turned into a rubbish tip with empty cans and plastic bottles littering all the banks? It's no use moaning once it happens. Find a dustbin bag, take one with you next time you go fishing, and before you start take out five minutes to pick up as much litter as you can find and see what a difference it makes.

Admittedly, where the water is used by others not all the rubbish will be fishing rubbish, but it's a start and if you want any semblance of an argument based on ecological awareness, that's where the start has got to be — in reversing the trend that has become all too apparent in recent years. The streets of our cities bear witness to the disposable, take-away age that we live in, and the lakes and rivers we fish are fast becoming a mirror image of the concrete sprawl that we aim to escape from. There's a certain magic to being by the side of a lake at one in the morning — that's why we go fishing, and that's why we're misunderstood by non-anglers who can never be part of that which we take for granted. However, there's no magic in sitting on top of someone else's pile of rubbish at any time of the day. Picking up rubbish isn't something 'they' should have done before the fishing rights were lost. It's something *you* should be doing *now*.

There is an old adage that questions the probability of all fishermen being liars and goes on to suggest that maybe all the liars fish. Well, that adage has come of age and I ask you now: 'Are all fishermen selfish or do all the selfish people fish?' Along with that adage our fishing must now come of age. We must turn three million plus unthinking, self centred, so-called fishermen, people who would never pick up a discarded fag packet if they could hide it by covering it up with an empty crisp packet, into that army of environmentally aware, conservation-minded anglers. We can become a force to be more than reckoned with, a force that will be able to say: 'It's alright to use lead shot because we always take it home with us', a force that will be able to say: 'Anti, Schmant, what are you doing to aid conservation?'

But all the time you lot are sitting on your collective butt, not even bothering to write letters or put empty tins back in your baskets, is it any wonder that our sport is such an easy target for people that want to use it for their own ends, their own self publicity? Whether that publicity would come from outside the sport or whether they seek to find fame and (more often than not) money from within the sport makes no difference; we don't need them.

Our sport is inundated with hangers-on who would use the sport for things other than the sport itself. There are manufacturers who, because it has been suggested that lead shot will be banned and rather than put the long term welfare of the sport first, jump on the 'ban it'

bandwagon and try to force ridiculously overpriced and unsuitable substitutes on us with their eyes on a fast buck whilst all the time dreaming of tax havens in the Bahamas at our expense. If lead shot were disposed of properly in the first place the whole question of banning it would never have arisen, and we'd be able to get these parasites off our backs.

There are the tackle dealers who, tired of silent tills during the close-season and on hearing that it (the close season) 'isn't working' said, again with their collective eye on a fast buck rather than on the future of the sport, 'Scrap it'. This is *not* the answer. If the close season isn't working because fish are still spawning on June 16th, then the close season should be adjusted accordingly with any regional variations that are necessary taken into account to protect the fish when they are most vulnerable, which is after all what the close season is there for.

The sport of angling should never be allowed to be used for things other than the realisation of the art of angling, especially by people who wouldn't recognise the art in a million years just because you can't buy a bucketful of it to sell again with a two hundred percent mark-up.

True art has always involved the concealment of that art. You can't buy true art, just like you can't buy talent and luck; you've got 'em or you aint. But unlike talent and luck, an art can be worked toward and that is where a change should come. All the time people ignore the true art of angling in favour of other things, our target will remain an easy target for those hangers-on and parasites. Just as Mary Decker and Zola Budd were running in the Olympics, not just for the taking part but for the sake of future television appearance money and popular newspaper sales respectively, a greater power than that of TV producers and Fleet Street editors saw to it that neither would profit at the expense of an ideal.

There are of course obvious parallels in other walks of life. In the world of motor cycling there is the brash, flashy sub-culture of the super-bikes, the Z1300s and VF-750s followed by all the boys on their 125-LC's tearing up and down the High Street on their gaudy two-wheeled advertising hoardings. Meanwhile, labouring away in a garden shed at the other end of the spectrum there's an enthusiast, a practitioner of the true *art* of motor-cycling, patiently rebuilding an old Manx-Norton or Douglas Dragonfly, hoping that no-one will notice if the crankcase bolts he uses aren't an exact match for the original. To find the true art, ignore the noise.

There is an overwhelming need for change and education within our sport, a need that arises because of the unarguable fact that fish suffer for the want of experience. More often than not fish suffer at the hands of people just because, in the case of big pike, they cannot be bothered to get hold of the right equipment and find out how to unhook them properly, quickly and safely. If fish suffer for the want of knowledge of safe unhooking procedures, what chance has a big pike got that gets 'gassed up' or is

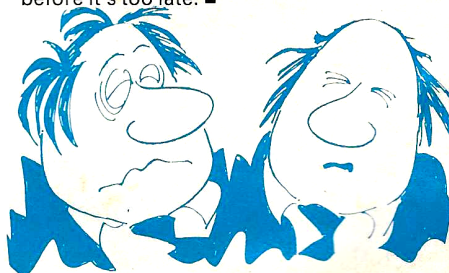
just plain knackered after a long scrap and an even longer unhooking/weighing/photo session? The experienced/educated angler will take time out, possibly at the expense of the rest of the day's fishing, in an attempt to see that the fish recovers sufficiently before carrying on. The inexperienced, through no fault of their own, on putting the fish back and seeing it sink sideways to the bottom will either tell themselves that it will be alright once it has lain on the bottom for a while, or will assume that it is already dead and that nothing can be done about it when, for the want of a little teaching, another pike could have been saved.

Of course, there's the type again who only use our sport as an ego boost and after getting his photo for the fishing weeklies, cares little if the fish lives or dies. After all, 'It's only a fish mate. The club can always buy another one, can't they!'

Just one example, but it's not only the big fish boys, not by a long chalk. Before all you matchmen start patting yourselves on the back, how about bringing your own house in order? How about a more widespread use of weigh-nets rather than plastic buckets and rusty wire baskets? How about thinking of the fish rather than the money? If everyone treated their fish like those of you did who took part in 'Hooked', under the all-seeing eyes of the general public, is it any wonder that people get upset? If competition stewards were to be more stringent where the weighing in of dead fish were concerned, would this not promote a more widespread use of barbless hooks? No-one can deny that fish are lost on barbless hooks and, likewise, no-one can deny that fish die in keepnets after being deep hooked and subjected to primitive surgery in an attempt to remove the hook. Now, if we were talking about roughly similar numbers being lost off the hook and in the net, why not swap one lost fish for the other?

Take a match being run properly with no dead fish being weighed in. Surely it's better to lose a fish off a barbless hook, a fish that stays alive, rather than lose a fish in the net which would only float down the river after the match. There again, if we're not talking equal numbers, what about the time element involved? How many more fish could be caught while you're struggling to unhook one awkward one or remove that barbed hook from the side of your keepnet?

Try it sometime, if not for yourself then for angling as a whole. There's enough people out there who want to take our fishing from us. For goodness sake don't hand them a complete way of life on a silver platter. Think about what you do (or don't do!) before it's too late. ■



Clive Roberts Memoir's

Part 5

Continuation of 1979...

The Welsh Team had arranged a friendly international match. The first of its kind against Ireland. An away match for us on the river Erne. The Welsh team won that event and I caught 8lb of skimmers that helped towards our victory.



This was September of 79, straight after the match and back home to the all-England National on the River Wellend, on the east side of the country. On that event our Cardiff Nomad team came a credible 11th. I remember drawing the Coronation Channel section and caught 4lb 60z of skimmers, using a zoomer float (A Body loaded waggler) attaching the float by the top and bottom. And with the wind behind me it fished



like a dream, catching small skimmers I beat most anglers around me.

The Wellend Coronation Channel section

After this event the River Wye opened again and saw me in the winning frame again. This time the Welsh National on the lower Wye, which attracted 480 anglers that was a record of anglers at that time.

I remember a hard frost on the day and with a cold water influx into the river it fished very hard for Wye standards. I started on the bread flake as usual and caught a couple, but after an hour I switched to an inside line and caught another 14 chub on the stick float and maggot. Ending up with 20lb 2oz that won me the match. Winning over £400 that was more than a couple of months wages at the time, my biggest open match win to date. Our Nomads team also winning the team event made this a great memorable event.

The following week my team Cardiff Nomads fished the Lower Wye team championships and duly won beating their long time rivals Coleshill the top team from Birmingham. I had another good result coming 2nd in my section with 10lb of bread caught chub on that day.

1979—80

With work commitments and the purchase of a new house, life was hectic, but I still managed to fish 60 plus matches that season. As a footnote in previous years we only fished 30 or 40 matches per season.

Matches in general were becoming more popular and in particular Saturday matches. With the close season still in force that meant that the season was only 9 months long, unless of course you fished in Ireland during the close season.

By now during the early 80s I was fishing a wide range of venues that included not just my local venues but places like the Huntspill, Kennet Avon Canal, Gloucester Canal, and the Bristol Avon.

Our Team Cardiff Nomads were perhaps one of the first to use this magical bait, and a match in particular that stands out was the South of England Championships, held on the Huntspill in Somerset, upsetting the odds we won the event using the red devils, catching small fish throughout the team. I won my section with 2lb 4oz in the match that fielded 40 teams of 12.

Bloodworm fishing was also at its peak with its popularity, and a venue I was successful winning two matches was the Brecon and Monmouthshire canal near Abergavenny, South Wales.

During the season of 1980 we also fished another International friendly match against Ireland, this time on the river Clare Southern Ireland. This was a tough venue I recall, and with huge walks to the pegs. In fact the local farmer helped us to the pegs with an open ended tractor. I ended up with just 15oz of perch and my team member Clive Branson winning from and end peg with 9lb. Wales Won the event too.



A week later Nomads were fishing the All England division 3 national, this time on the Ancholme in Lincolnshire. However the river was in flood after a good down pour of rain, and because of our experience in flooded rivers we managed to come 6th overall and promotion. I caught just 2oz of fry at the time.

My record show as winter came that year I fished the Bristol Avon a few times, but because of the cold weather that winter, fishing was very hard indeed, and did not catch a lot according to my match diary. Yet, when the Wye opened up again I had immediate success when I fished the Wye Championships and won my sect with 13lb at Field Farm section.

1980's

The eighties were a time of great tackle development, Carbon rods and Poles were being replaced from the old fibre glass, which made tackle much more lighter and easy to use. I remember I got my first Carbon pole which was a Diawa Pro-Carbon 10 metres in length, that replaced my old Shakespeare 6 meter one. The cost was an arm and a leg at £400, but at the time worth every penny. The advantage it gave me especially when using bloodworm and lighter tackle over other anglers was a blessing. During this time Bloodworm fishing was sweeping the country as the number one bait to use, and I was there with the best.

I did become obsessed with the bloodworm bait, and also the French style of fishing, with olivettes and light lines, I would seek out matches that suited that style. Nevertheless, Roath Park in Cardiff was still responding to the old method of waggler fishing, with Pinkie maggots over groundbait, and during that year I won two more matches, not with big weights but 5lb and 4lb 7oz was enough.

Next Time..... The Bloodworm Revolution

Steve Ringer Facebook Reports



3 April at 09:32 Day 1 of practice for the Merida masters, Spain. Stunning venue



3 April First day in Merida🇪🇸. Amazing fishing and plenty learnt. One more day of practice tomorrow. Definitely not shortage of fish

5 April at 18:36

Merida masters day 1 and A5 was my home. Knew it'd be hard to beat the early pegs but also Knew it was better than to my right.

Anyway had a good day last hour to finish with 14 kilo and 4th in the 14 pegs. Happy with that from there although 3rd was achievable with some better decisions early on. Wakos had a tough day but two big days to come



6 April

Day 2 of the merida masters and it's safe to say the venue woke up. I feel I've been wrong end of B but still could have caught 50 kilo with better decisions. Can't give everyone a 2 hour start and expect to catch up again. Walter Tamás taking the section with 55 kilos. Hes just too good. Anyway I've had 46 kilo for 5th in my zone. Wako has had 47 kilo for 4th. So loads of fish but we are just a bit short. Last day tomorrow but been a brilliant trip so far.

8 April

Last day of the merida masters in sunny Spain. C11. Not a bad area although ends can be good. Well had a good first 3 hours then a horrible 4th hour. Before a good finish. The 4th hour was very costly though as just 350g would have given me 2 more points. There is literally no room for error on this venue. I also got a lesson off the next peg from Petr Danis. Brilliant performance. Overall I ended up 7th but definitely room for improvement. Massive congratulations to Olivier Gielczynski. Stand out performance and deserved winner. Overall an incredible venue and brilliantly organised event. Definitely one I'd like to do again in the future. We return in 3 weeks with the Drennan England feeder team





Wickersley Angling open yesterday at Ferry meadows. Ferry has been fishing brilliantly of late so was really looking forward to it. 22 fishing all on overton. Well after a 35 year wait I finally drew the mythical old 120s, peg 110 to be precise. It's been repegged hence change of numbers. Brilliant draw and the form area so really fancied it.

Set up two 13ft Aventus distance rods to fish at 54m. Took me ages to find a spot I was happy with but eventually found a smoothish area. Put 8 guru 7 hole bait ups in at the start with a few micros, dead maggots and casters. Groundbait was the usual Ringers dark coco. Took me 45 minutes to get my first then caught in runs but couldn't get the bream to settle. Really pushed the peg with bait last 90 minutes but if anything it blew the peg. Weird day as felt like loads bream there but they wouldn't settle and feed. Tried lots of different feeders but best by far was a 40g caged window in a medium size. Hook was a 12 Feeder special XS to an 0.18 pure fluorocarbon hooklength. 65cm being best length as the bream seemed to be off bottom. Felt like i had to keep changing things to keep bites coming. Finished with 15 bream, 5 skimmers for 111lb and the match win. Lovely fishing



Ferry meadows 22/04/24 for the PDAA Ferry cup qualifier. Weather had turned bitter cold so wasn't too sure what to expect. Draw wise I pulled out 65 on the corner of the monument. A shallow peg that I was happy with. Set up 2 Aventus 13' distance rods to fish at 56m. Had a good plumb around and seemed to be fine weed everywhere on the bottom. Which isn't a bad thing at ferry. Put 10 7 hole guru bait ups in at the start with mainly groundbait (Ringers dark coco), plus a few dead reds, casters and micros. 1 hour 45 mins I got my first bream on 4 dead red maggots. But no more signs. Water was also starting to come up and felt. Looking around there was nothing being caught so the conditions had clearly killed the fishing. Fed a few worms just to see and nicked one more bream but again nothing followed. Decided with 90 minutes to go I might as well be positive so cut everything out buy worms. And after 25 minutes had a savage bite that came off instantly. Back out feeling devastated and it went round again for bream number 3. Then 2 more next two casts and thought here we go! A big finish is on the cards...next bite was a 10oz skimmer then a perch. Then that was it.

My 5 bream went 32lb which won my money section and also got me a place in the big june final. Overall the match was won by Ash Welford off 83 near the fence with 65lb. By the end the water had come up a good 3 inches so can't help but feel that killed it. But still some good weights in areas.

THE METHOD FEEDER

With Steve Ringer



HOOKBAIT

Nothing more complex than an 8mm or 10mm pink or yellow Ringers pop-up!

CLIP POSITION

Fix the Method clip in the middle of the feeder to put the pop-up amid the pellets.

LENGTH OF LINK

Altering the clip leaves 2ins of line for the link, which speeds up how fast I get a bite.



FEEDER CHOICE

As always this is the reliable Guru X-Safe... the weight depends on how far I need to cast.



Pink and yellow are top bait colours.

HOW IT WORKS

The Method clip comes in two sizes, small and large, and is designed to fit the two sizes of Guru Method feeders that I use.

It's easy to attach and basically sits on top of the feeder's bait platform in the middle of the feeder.

The clip has a rubber slot in the middle which safely grips the hooklength, so that once a fish sucks in the hookbait it feels the bolt effect a lot quicker. The chances of a fish getting away with it are vastly reduced too.

Once the fish is hooked, the line is pulled free from the clip so you are able to play the fish in the normal manner.

The beauty of the clip is that it's so easy to vary the length of your hooklength while maintaining perfect bait presentation.

HOOKLENGTHS

I still use a 4ins hooklength, as would normally be the case when fishing the Method, but by varying where I put the line in the clip I can fish with as long or short a hooklength as I want,

depending on how the fish are feeding on the day. Where I'm looking to catch mainly carp from 3lb to well into double figures I use a 4ins hooklength of 0.19mm N-Gauge to a size 12 QM1 hook and pop the bait up 2ins from the feeder.

When fishing a pop-up, and having experimented a lot, I like to start off a session with the hookbait popping up around 2ins from the feeder.

Once the feed breaks down, this leaves the hookbait just clear of the loose offerings and it is therefore the first thing a fish will see as it approaches the feeder, massively increasing your chances of a bite.

A little tip when using the clip is to fish with a relatively short hair. If it is too long there's a chance the fish will feel resistance before the hook is actually in its mouth.

With a short hair (with the bait just sitting off the back of the bend) this can't happen. Long hairs, in my opinion, are not suited to short hooklengths.

In terms of what to fish on the hook, two of my favourite summer colours for carp are pink and yellow with the Ringers 8mm or 10mm the most productive sizes for me.

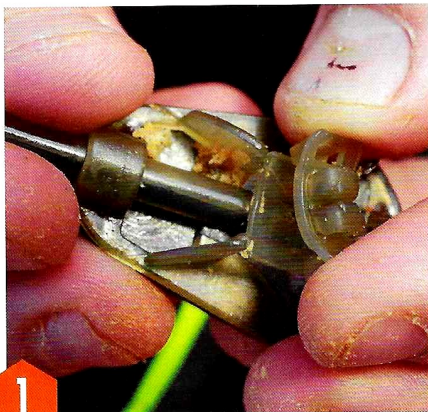
Around the feeder go dampened Ringers Method micro pellets – I leave groundbait out completely when fishing for carp. ➔

One in the net for the pop-up Method!





STEP-BY-STEP LOADING THE POP-UP FEEDER



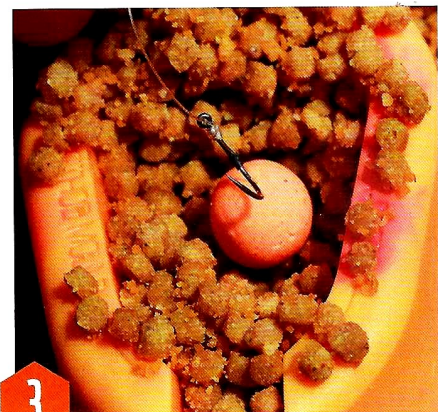
1

Add the device to the bait platform on your Method feeder with the rubber hooklength clip upwards.



2

Pull your hooklength into the rubber clip and set it at the height you want the bait to sit - 2ins is a good starting point.



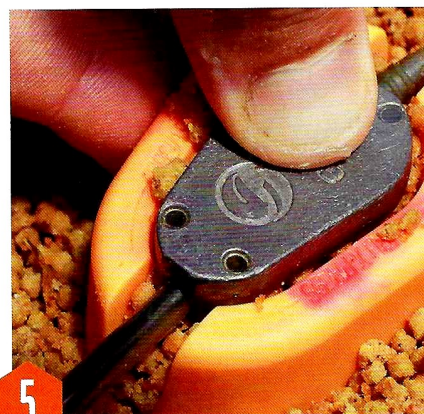
3

Fill your mould with your chosen bait - I have pellets here - and create a small indentation for the hookbait to sit in.



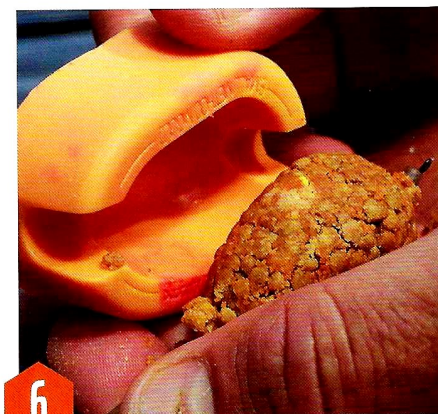
4

Add more of your pellet feed to the mould so it fills the mould and covers your hookbait.



5

Push the feeder into the mould as normal, applying plenty of pressure to make sure the pellets stick to the feeder.



6

Remove the feeder. For more bait I put extra pellets in the mould and then pop the feeder back in for a second layer.

Secret Lives of Coarse Fish



ID Pointers

Dorsal fin shapes, lateral line scale counts, the degree of serration of the dorsal spine and distinguishing features only visible upon dissection can all help identify a true crucian, but confusion still arises.

Q Can you give me some help on fish identification, especially how to correctly identify a crucian carp?

A. Clark, Oldham, Lancashire.

The Doc says...

There are a few general rules which relate to fish ID, which if you follow them will help you to either consistently get your species identification correct, or at least confirm when and why you are unsure.

There are a number of unreliable features, such as colour and body shape which, although can be a useful steer, they can rarely be relied upon solely, simply due to the degree of natural variation between populations and also between individuals in the same group.

To illustrate the point, perch are hard to mistake for anything else in UK waters, but the bold black vertical stripes, often seen as a distinguishing feature are completely absent in perch from certain waters, and barely noticeable in others.

Similarly bream are often described as being deep bodied, and as adults they generally are, however young bream can be much less deep bodied, and can actually have a very similar body shape to a roach of the same length in certain circumstances.

The key to positive IDs are the definitive features, those possessed only by a particular species, but even here there is room for error, particularly when it comes to species which hybridise. Examples of this are scale counts and fin ray counts, as well as morphometric features such as the position or size of an eye or fin relative to another measurement.

It is common for chub and dace to be differentiated by looking at the profile of the leading edge of the dorsal fin, convex in chub, and concave or straight in dace, and in adult silver bream the diameter of the eye is bigger than the distance from the tip of the snout to the front of the eye.

In the case of crucian carp, in brown goldfish there is a species which is very similar in appearance, colour and body shape, and this is further complicated by the

known existence of hybrids with a number of other carp species. Some distinguishing features are only visible upon dissection, which isn't much use to an angler. However, the presence of a convex leading edge to the dorsal fin is a strong pointer towards a crucian carp.

The degree of serration of the dorsal spine is another clue, this being heavily serrated in the goldfish, although you would ideally need to have one of each, or experience of each to be sure. A lateral line scale count is another distinguishing feature, although there is still room for confusion here, as the counts for the two species overlap in the range from 28 to 31. However if the fish you have has less than 28 lateral line scales you can conclude that it is probably a brown goldfish, while if there are more than 31 the fish is most likely a true crucian.

DR. STUART CLOUGH

Stuart, a qualified fishery scientist and advisor, answers your questions right here in Angler's Mail.



FISHY FACT

Fish weight

JUVENILE fish increase their weight progressively over the year, however the rate of weight gain is most noticeable in the summer months and body weight may plateau, or even fall during the winter months.

In adult fish, particularly female fish, this weight fluctuation is strongly influenced by the reproductive cycle and increases steadily

with the development of eggs within the body cavity. In the final days before spawning water is absorbed to swell the eggs, and at this point there is a rapid increase in weight, followed by an even more marked weight decline once the eggs are released. Consequently, female cyprinids, lose 10 to 20 per cent of their body weight over the spawning season.

Hadrian Whittle Match Reports

The Gloucester Canal Spring League 1st Round

I don't really know where to start!

Best peg on the canal in the spring by some margin was my destination for round 1 of the spring league... it's very hard not to win off this peg I'm told!

Well I managed to! Peg 456 is where hundreds of if not thousands of bream go to spawn but with it freezing cold and the water gin clear and taking into account the peg had been cluttered in the week I don't think I've done owt wrong tbh!

Putting aside the disappointment that comes with failing to deliver on a peg that delivers more than Deliveroo I've still had a days fishing to remember in a section that's been abso-

lutely dire..5 Gloucester canal

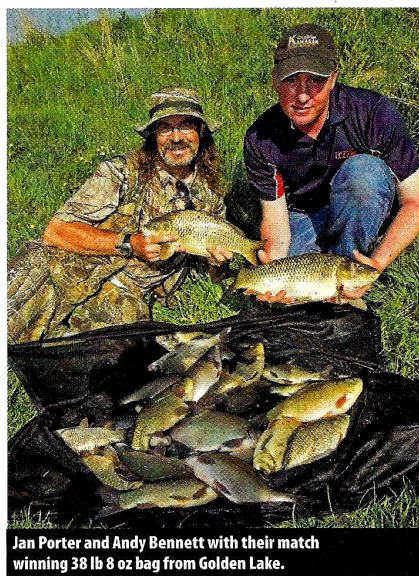
tench (they pull a bit)... 5 more than I've caught in 36 years of fishing the canal and a solitary bream gave me the all important zone win for team Woodys with a level 21lbs enough for 5th on the day! We've had a mixed day though ending about 12/14th out of 33 so lots of work/drawing to do in the remaining rounds!

Strange how the whole section has fished abysmal which is odd as it's usually the best section but I guess the late spring means the bream are still mostly in their winter haunts!





GARY NEWMAN'S angling adventures



Jan Porter and Andy Bennett with their match winning 38 lb 8 oz bag from Golden Lake.

catch up with them again, and also say hello to a few of the new faces who were there for the first time.

I've never been into match fishing myself, but you'd have to be stupid not to admire the way they catch fish, and there are definitely some things that us specimen anglers can learn from them, so I was looking forward to a bit of tuition on pole and Method feeder fishing.

The way the draw worked was that the match angler drew a specimen angler out of the hat and then the pair of you drew your pegs on Golden Lake, the match venue, and then on either Long or Horseshoe Lake for the catfish.

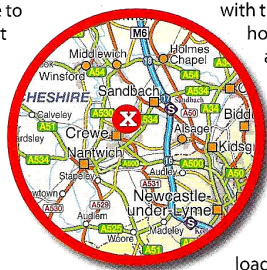
VENUE information

DESCRIPTION. The Horseshoe Lake is around four acres in size and contains the bigger fish but is a bit more of a challenge. The Long Lake, at around 2.5 acres, is probably as close to a runs water for catfish as you can get and holds a very good head of fish. All of the usual catfish tactics work on both lakes, including worm, pellet and meat, but livebaits and coarse deadbaits are banned. The Golden Lake responds to both the pole and Method feeder, with pellet or meat being a good way of getting around the hordes of small roach in there.

TICKETS. Horseshoe Lake is £30 for 24 hours with three rods; the Long Lake is £25 for 24 hours with three rods; and the Golden Lake costs £7 for one rod or £10 for two rods for the day. You must book in advance and can't just turn up and fish. For more details call: 01270 766937 or 07771 848801.

LOCAL TACKLE SHOP. Stapeley Angling Centre, Nantwich. Tel: 01270 611500.

LOCATION. Leave the M6 at junction 17 and follow the signs to Crewe on the A534. You'll turn right at the first roundabout that you come to, still on the A534, and then straight on at the next roundabout. A mile or so further along, turn right into Clay Lane (it is signposted on the main road). The fishery is located 800 yards or so down Clay Lane on your right.



Simon and Lewis were soon well in the lead with this 25 lb 8 oz cat adding to their big match weight.

I was delighted when Matt Hall pulled my name out as he is the only angler to have won Fish'O'Mania twice, amongst other things, and I knew that he was pretty good at all types of fishing, having even done a bit of piking in the past. He'd also caught catfish before, having won the match the first year with Mark Barratt and has also fished on the River Ebro in Spain for them.

We drew peg ten on the Long Lake, which looked a pretty good bet even though it wasn't one of the two hot pegs that the match had always been won from. We also had a reasonable peg on Golden Lake, with an island in front of us and a small reed-lined bay down to our left where we could see carp moving the reed stems.

The format this year was to be slightly different with the match angler fishing for the first hour to show us what to do and to try and build the swim up, before we took over for the last three hours.

Matt had set up a pole to fish the island margin at around 14 m, feeding micro pellets with a 6 mm expander on the hook in the hope of picking up skimmers and F1s plus hopefully a bonus carp.

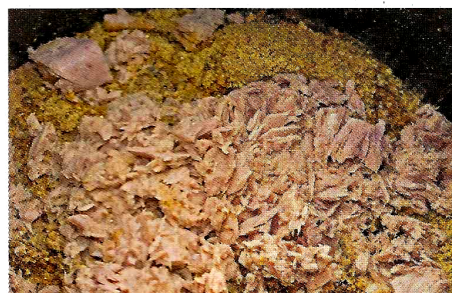
Things didn't quite go to plan as a load of small roach moved in and kept taking the pellet, and he had a frustrating time with most of them falling off on the way in.

He did manage to land a few slightly bigger roach and a skimmer before giving up and trying a spot close in, but once again the roach moved in.

Everyone was catching fish but a couple of the pairs were doing far better, and we could see Lewis Murawski catching on the pole at the other end, before handing over to his partner, Catfish Pro owner and Catfish Conservation Group secretary Simon Clarke.

Just round the corner from us things had also started to come good for Andy Bennett as he was getting F1s and skimmers and was in a very strong position, as his specimen angler partner was former match ace Jan Porter, who is now an out-and-out specimen angler.

After the hour was up I took over from Matt and had the same problem with the small roach. But



A mixture of Pallatrax Whisker Method mix and tuna to get plenty of smell in the swim.

as we could see Jan constantly catching on meat we switched to a new line at 10 m in the hope of getting a few going in our swim as well.

Even with the new lightweight poles it can be awkward fishing at this length, but after a bit of advice from Matt on how to sit and hold the pole it went from being a real strain to being able to hold the pole with one hand!

Another trick that I learnt was using a back shot, basically a shot pinched on the line a few inches above the float, which is then dangled in the water and helps to exaggerate the bites and also helps move the float about in the swim to induce a bite.

After a biteless hour or so it was time for another change and we moved onto Plan D – this being a Method feeder rod and a hair-rigged piece of corn with 6 lb Maxima main line that I was going to cast tight to the reeds.

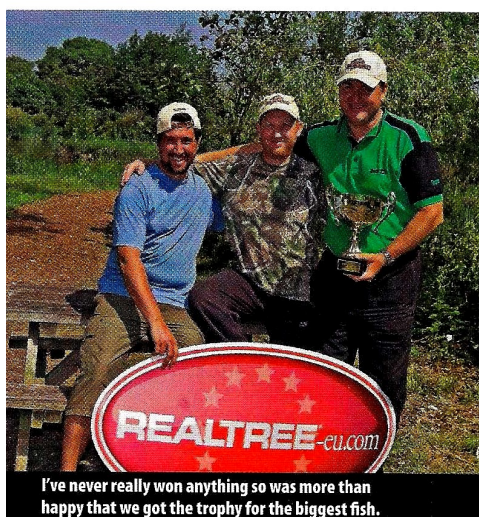
We clipped the feeder up at the right distance and it was then simply a case of underarming it and putting it down on the rest as it hit the water, so that it landed right on the edge of the reeds.

I was using a Speed Mould and I was so impressed with it that I'll be getting myself one for when I'm Method fishing for species such as crucians. It was simple to use and once the main Method ball was formed and removed from the mould, I sprinkled a small amount of groundbait in, laid the hook bait on top and pressed the feeder back in again, thus the hook bait was buried, but not so much that the fish couldn't easily get to it.

It wasn't long before the tip flew round and I



All of the competitors, plus a couple of cats that were retained for a few hours for a group photo.



I've never really won anything so was more than happy that we got the trophy for the biggest fish.

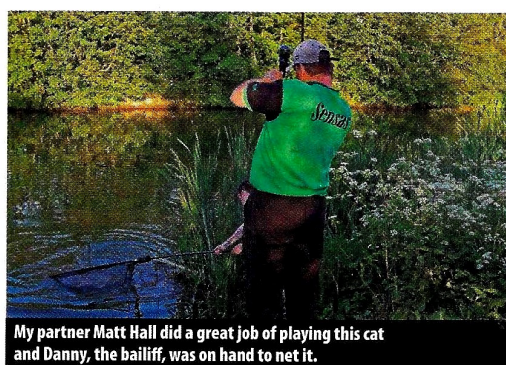
pulled into a carp and quickly dragged it away from the reeds and it was just coming out of them when the hook opened out.

Matt tied on a new rig with a stronger hook and the same thing happened again shortly afterwards, but it was third time lucky and I landed a common of about 3 or 4 lb soon afterwards. Things went slowly after that but then five minutes before the end of the match I had another bite, but the fish got around a reed stem and, just as it was coming free, the hook link cut through.

We knew that we hadn't come anywhere near and that it would be between Jan and Simon, and Jan just edged it with 38 lb 8 oz to Simon's 34 lb 8 oz.

The way the rules worked, though, in order for your match weight to count you had to catch a catfish, and for the first time in four years someone had bagged one from the match lake. Kev Shore had managed one of a couple of pounds, so he and Mark Walton were in the lead with 7 lb, but we all knew it would only take someone else to catch a cat from the other lakes for this to change.

After a couple of hours break for a bit of food it was time to cast out for the night. I'd set Matt up



My partner Matt Hall did a great job of playing this cat and Danny, the bailiff, was on hand to net it.

with a dumbbell rig and a bunch of lobworms fished about nine inches under the surface on one rod, in the hope that the movement would attract anything feeding near the surface as the lake is only a few feet deep. The other rod was fished with a lump of meat over a bed of groundbait and pellets.

There was an island about 20 yards out in front of our swim with a gap in it, so one rod was cast off of each corner of the island, not too close though, as we wanted to have a chance of stopping any catfish that we hooked from going through the gap.

The rods had been out for 40 minutes or so and we were just talking about how early morning was usually the best time for the cats, or certainly had been in previous years, when there was a big swirl next to the bait and the dumbbell disappeared. Seconds later the alarm screamed and Matt struck into something that instantly took line and tried to go through the gap.

It nearly succeeded, but Matt did a great job stopping it and soon afterwards one of the bailiffs on the water, Danny, slipped the net under a nice fish as I took some photos. It weighed a bit more than I first thought and at 26 lb 9 oz put us into the lead.

Up to our left Steve Collett, fishing with venue regular Tony Corbett, had missed a fish and ten minutes or so later we heard a buzzer from Simon Clarke's swim and saw Lewis bent into a fish with Simon offering advice. That one weighed 25 lb 8 oz and our lead was short-lived as they also had 34 lb

8 oz from the match to add to that. They extended their lead further with two more fish and finished with a combined total of 90 lb 4 oz, well ahead of me and Matt in second with 34 lb 1 oz.

We sat up until around midnight and then decided to get some sleep, fully expecting to be awoken by some more action. Matt was up well before me and had already put on fresh baits and recast by the time I got up, but all to no avail as by 10.30am when the match finished we hadn't managed any more action.

Things had been a bit quieter on the Horseshoe Lake, which contains the bigger fish, but we had heard that Kev Shore's partner, Mark Walton, had been really unlucky, as they'd spotted a big fish, cast to it and had a take soon after, but after a good fight the 50 lb hook link had broken.

After packing up it was time for the presentation, with Simon and Lewis winning with quite a bit to spare, but we did manage second place and also had the biggest fish of the match.

Most of us headed down to the local pub for a late breakfast, and Lewis was getting plenty of stick from the other matchmen, who by now had christened him Lewis Meow-ski!

Once again it had been a fantastic event and Lakemore owner Mark Ashmore and his team had done a brilliant job, as had the sponsors, Realtree. If I get an invite I'll be going back and I know most of the others who fished it will be there as well.

Tackle in Focus

FRESHEN UP 🥳 Have you sorted out your kit for spring? Do you replace your elastics for the year ahead, or do you just use what is left in from the year before? 🙄



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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 ordered 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 maggots 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

6 April

Qualified for the Bait-Tech Feeder Masters Final today! Cracking day at a rather windy Decoy Lakes, catching over 170lb on peg 10 on Horseshoe to win the Horseshoe/Beastie zone... and not an end peg in sight! Well done Fabian Arpad and Steve Curtis winning the other two zones!

Nice to get the ever-faithful Horizon Pro 10ft Commercial Feeder bent double, catching with Sonubaits Fluoro Bandums and maggots over Fin Perfect micros and Washed Out Bait Booster. Hardest part was netting fish with the 40mph gusts!

Today certainly made up for a disappointing Wednesday on the Fisho qualifier at Boldings as Ash Lake where I drew totally switched off for some reason. Plenty more chances for that one I hope though...

Great to qualify for a big one early as it helps me clear up a rather congested match calendar! Already looking forward to the final at Upper Tamar Lakes in Devon in September. If anyone has a nice muck heap full of redworms please drop me a message as I think my old one's disappeared!



Lovely day at Packington and the Fish Matrix cameras joined me to film it as a live match for their channel, so keep a look out for that when it comes out!

ust had a really nice week down at White Acres on the Guru Festival... apart from the rather fresh and bloody windy weather!

I usually draw a bit rubbish on Day One so was over the moon to finally get a flyer in the shape of peg 17 on Twin Oaks. The right end of the lake and slightly more fishable than all the pegs to my left in the 40mph gusts. I've had an epic day catching 210lb to blitz the lake and the biggest weight of the week.

About 90lb on the method feeder with maggots and Bandum wafters, two on meat short and the rest down the edge on maggots over micros and Match Method Mix. Had some right hippos up to about 18lb! Lovely getting the Horizon Pro 10ft Feeder bent double and 18-20 Slik stretching. Even if I did rubbish the rest of the week I'd got this match to remember...

Day Two I was on a very very windy Trelawney peg 31 and it's fished a bit rubbish. After two hours I'd got 2lb in the net! Could just about hold 13m at times and had five little fish here on 4mm pellet but wasn't going anywhere. The wind was hitting the far bank horribly so I wasn't surprised my tip never trembled, but it changed slightly mid match and I suddenly had an 8lb carp and three nice f1s in as many casts on a little feeder and dead maggot over there. As soon as they came they sadly vanished and new swims yielded nothing.

Nothing came down the edges and my caster shallow line which I fed all day at 10m produced just roach. Last hour I've had a few carp and F1s on meat short.

Ended up with 47lb which was only good enough for 3rd in section as peg 2 and peg 5, on the opposite bank, had 55lb and a lake winning 80lb. So that would have to be my dropper...

Day Three and a lovely short walk from my lakeside lodge to end peg 1 on Jennys! My target weight was 80lb and I've had a dream start catching 40lb in the first hour on the method, chucking up the bank!

After that the fish have totally vanished. Can't believe it! Regularly potting meat short I've only caught skimmers. Started to feed corn with it as it was towing like the Trent. Even double corn down the side produced more skimmers. Was going nowhere so swapped to paste and had 25lb of small carp and F1s on that.

Ended up with 75lb for 2nd in section behind Sam Powell's 99lb off peg 7. Great effort from a great angler on what seemed to be the boss area in that section all week, so not sure I could've done much more.

Day Four was the dreaded Python which had been fishing poor and felt there was six pegs worth drawing: end pegs 2, 18, 20 and 36, plus maybe 3 or 35 as all the fish seemed to be up that end. I was therefore gutted to draw Peg 21... but the weather was tonnes better and gave me a glimmer of hope...

I went from wearing extra layers and my Sherpa fleece the last three days to fishing in a T-shirt and popping the factor 50 sun cream on!



I've then just fished meat to the island all day for a lovely days fishing, ending up with 77lb, comfortably winning my end of the lake and 3rd overall on the day. Great day. Definitely wasn't expecting that! Just shows anything can happen on these festivals.

Day Five I was desperately in need of a section win and a good draw, so was a bit deflated to have peg 42 on Pollawyn drawn for me. On paper I felt it was the worst of the four end pegs in that section, up against pegs 36, 7 and boss peg 48, which had won the match the previous day. It's also 20m wide while pegs 7 and 48 can comfortably get across.

Kicked off long 16m with meat and had seven carp in seven drops, but only 2-3lb in weight as they were tiny. Next drop a 4lb carp on the drop and that was the last fish I had here. One 1lb carp on the feeder, then hooked and lost four F1s long down the side tapping in meat. Not ideal! Mugged two 5lb carp that drifted by and finally had a run of small carp and F1s tighter in to the bank on worms over Match Method Mix. Pricked another mugger and lost another carp that threw the hook in the lilies to my right. Last 10 minutes the edge went totally dead, but I managed a last-gasp 5lb carp short.

Never felt things went my way at all today and my head dropped as I only thought I'd got about 38lb in my net. So when I lifted my one keepnet out and realised they'd gone 56lb on the scales I was shocked and gutted in equal measure. Peg 48 won the section with 68lb and I'd actually had more than enough on the hook to have won the section, but alas it wasn't to be. I've come 2nd in section and 4th on the lake. A good effort on a hard day, but I'd let myself down on not getting a section win that was well within grasp.

So I've ended up with two 1sts, two 2nds and a 3rd, plus a lake 1st, 3rd and 4th. That put me on 22 points and 13th overall out of 116 anglers. If I'd won my section on the last day I'd have only moved up to 9th overall as you needed 23 points to make the top 10, which is pretty remarkable. Fun fact, if it was on total weight I'd have won the festival ha ha... but points is the truer mark of consistency of course.



A massive well done to Brad Hancock winning with five straight section wins and I think four lake wins. A very worthy champ with that effort. And of course Guru for sponsoring the festival and the White Acres team for putting on a great week. Felt more like winter than spring most of the week, but I've got home to a rather long lawn that might need mowing soonish. Having a well-deserved

Rob Eyles Passing

It was with great sadness and shock that we lost a very good angler and friend Rob Eyles, who passed away early in 17th of April this year after a long battle with illness. .

Rob was a founder member and captain of the famous New Inn Nobblers, who resided from New Inn, Pontypool in South Wales. Rob was a very competitive angler who won many a local competitions. He also featured on many other venues outside his native South Wales, with placing on the Bristol Avon and the Huntspill drain in Somerset.

His friend and travelling partner Neil Dibble wrote this obituary on facebook early this month

18 April ·

Evening fellow match anglers , and friends of Rob Eyles.

Following on from my earlier post , regarding his sad passing , I would like add my personal tribute to my long time friend.

When I first met Rob , I was a fishing obsessed 14 year old . He was 3 years older , and one of the founder members of the soon to become " legendary " New Inn Nobblers match group.

We soon become great friends , culminating with him being the Best Man at my wedding , in 1985.

We were both carpenters by trade, match anglers by choice , and beer drinkers at every opportunity.

We both fathered children at the same time , took family holidays together , and travelled to fishing matches for many years.

Despite my pulling away from match fishing , for a about 12/14 years , in the late 90's , while played rugby and golf , we still remained the best of friends.

I returned to match fishing again , in 2010 , and immediately started travelling with Rob again. It was like I'd never been away.

Eventually , Rob "retired" from fishing a few years back , and took to running , cycling and canoeing instead. He was the fittest 60 year old you'd ever meet , until the illnesses started.

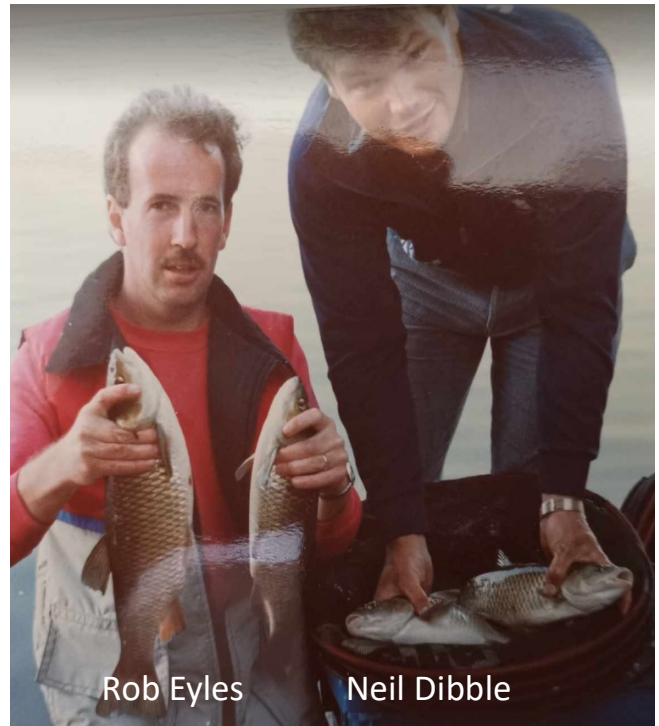
He was my best mate for very nearly 50 years, and as I write this post , tears are running down my face.

Your pain and suffering has ended now , my friend , you were an amazing man , friend and role model to me and countless others .

I has been a privilege to have known you .

I can't imagine what your family have been through , the last 4 years . You fought it with every fibre of your being. The biggest man I will ever know.

RIP Old Butty.



CARP TEAM ENGLAND LADIES | WORLD CHAMPS SQUAD REVEALED

England Ladies Carp Team Manager Adam Dowd has selected an experienced and talent packed-squad for this year's World Championship in Latvia, following a trial at Barston Lakes.



The squad, which remains largely unchanged from France last year, will have their eyes set on gold after a fifth place finish on the challenging Lac de Pannecière back in September. With longstanding squad member Theresa Biggs unable to attend in 2024, Nikki Gordon steps in.

“Nikki brings a wealth of knowledge and is a brilliant addition to the squad,” said Adam. “While Theresa can’t make this year’s World Championship, she’ll still play an active role in the squad and will continue to be involved for Home International events.”

Taking place on the vast 180-hectare Lake Balote in Kūku Parish, Latvia, the team go into this anticipating distance work to be key, with large numbers of newly stocked fish from 10-15lb the main target. The lake also holds fish into the low 40lb bracket, making for an exciting competition ahead.

“While this isn’t a venue we’ve fished before, the team and I will be off for a look in June to get a better idea of tactics,” said Adam. The competition will take place between the 9th and 13th of July 2024.

Manager: Adam Dowd

Ellen Beedham
Sam Hoskins
Antonia Bevilacqua
Kayleigh Dowd
Penny Gidlow
Nikki Gordon
Chloe Dodson-Shanks



Young Wigan angler awarded for environmental efforts

A special assembly was held at Marsh Green Primary School in Wigan to celebrate the remarkable environmental contributions of six-year-old Braydon Atherton-Gartland.

The young pupil stood out at a recent litter-picking event, organised jointly by the Angling Trust and the Environment Agency, aimed at cleaning up local waterways.

Braydon was thrilled to receive a certificate for his achievement. He also received a fishing rod and reel, generously provided by the Environment Agency from confiscated gear. The Angling Trust also gifted Braydon a two-metre whip, a reflective bib, a Shimano cap, an Angling Trust metal pin badge, stickers, and a litter picker, all aimed at enhancing Braydon's budding interest in angling and supporting his environmental care.



There was a noticeable buzz at the assembly as Ian Doyle from the Angling Trust and Damien Linney from the Environment Agency presented the gifts.

Ian remarked on Braydon's enthusiasm, saying: "It's heartwarming to see young anglers like Braydon actively involved in preserving our natural habitats."

Damien Linney added: "Braydon's dedication serves as an inspiring example for all of us. Witnessing the hands shoot up when I asked who else would like to join future clean-ups was truly encouraging."

Mrs. G Leigh, the headteacher of Marsh Green Primary, expressed her gratitude: "Thank you for taking the time to come to visit Braydon and recognise his achievements – it had a huge impact on him."

The event not only celebrated Braydon's dedication but also highlighted the broader efforts of the Angling Trust's Anglers Against Litter campaign, which seeks to engage more young people in conservation activities. Michael Rhodes, the Angling Trust's Northwest Voluntary Bailiff Service Area Coordinator, expressed his delight at the turnout and the enthusiastic response from the children.

This event marks a growing commitment to environmental education and active participation in conservation efforts in collaboration with organisations like the Angling Trust and the Environment Agency. David Lees, North West Regional Enforcement Support Manager, and David Brunet, a volunteer bailiff, also played significant roles in the initiative, emphasising community support for environmental care.

The enthusiasm shown by Braydon shows the positive role young anglers play in leading the way. Well done Braydon from all of us at the Angling Trust.

Sean Ashby Reports

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.



Ireland time again!!

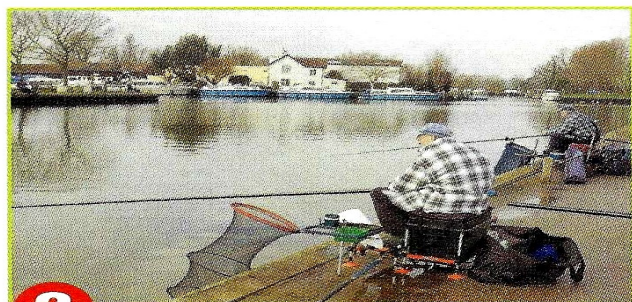
Next Issue Results..

20 Top Fishing tips in Cold Weather



1 Feed less bait

Fish are cold blooded. This means that their body temperature is the same as the water in which they swim and, as such, enzyme mediated processes are affected by the temperature of the water. Digestion is one such process and, because the enzymes work more slowly in cooler water, it takes a fish a lot longer to digest a meal in the winter than in summer. With this in mind, as a general rule, it pays to use less bait during winter.



2 River habitat

Many fish respond to the changing of the seasons by changing their behaviour and their habitat. In rivers shoaling species such as dace and roach often retreat to deeper, slower flowing areas. Being part of a large shoal offers individuals a degree of protection against predators, and the nature of the habitat makes the fish less vulnerable to being washed out during large spates. Target deeper, slower flowing areas further downstream for roach and dace in the winter.



3 Lake location

Fish in stillwaters also change their habitat use in winter. Much of this is driven by water temperature, and most species head for deeper water, where the water can be a degree or two warmer, during very cold spells. Rather than sit it out, it pays to recast into water of different depths until you find the depth at which the fish are feeding. During mild spells, however, this effect can be reversed, and fish will still visit the shallow, easily warmed parts of the lake to feed, with the margins of the windward shore being a favoured area in these conditions.



4 Time it right

There is no single best time of the day for winter fishing, but there are several weather related aspects worth considering. Most species feed best when the water temperature is stable or rising, and a falling temperature rarely results in good sport. Clear skies and high atmospheric pressure in winter often result in cold frosty nights, with air temperatures well below zero, followed by bright sunny days where the temperature rises several degrees. The coldest part of the day is often just after dawn, while the warmest is during the afternoon. During such periods, the afternoons often give the best sport, but don't ignore first light if mild south westerlies bring cloud and rain.



5 Flood fishing

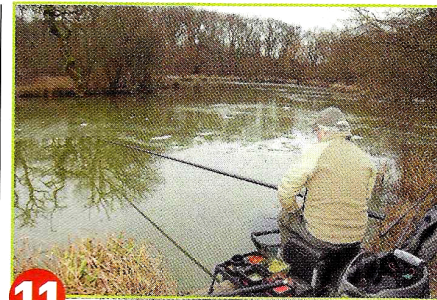
The main consideration when fishing flooded rivers is safety, and it is not worth taking any risks to catch a fish. However, if it is a stretch you know well and have the right equipment and knowledge to tackle it safely, there is good sport to be had on rivers in flood. The rising river can be the most challenging to fish as the amount of debris can make bait presentation difficult. However barbel, in particular, feed well under these conditions and large smelly baits presented on the original river bed stand a good chance of being taken.



6 Cold catch

Some species become very difficult to tempt during the winter while others actively feed throughout, albeit sporadically in response to conditions. You can get a clue whether a particular species will continue to feed well by looking at their geographical range. Species such as carp, crucians, tench and barbel are towards their northern limit in the UK, and tend to feed best during milder spells.

Conversely chub, dace, ide, pike, roach and perch can all be found at higher latitudes elsewhere, and feed well even when water temperatures are low. Grayling, which are present at high latitudes, are the best example of a cold tolerant species, and it rarely gets too cold in the UK for grayling to feed.



11 Ice breaker

When stillwaters, and occasionally rivers, become ice covered this is not only inconvenient for fishing, but there are risks to the fish. Physical breaking of the ice with heavy objects can, in theory, cause damage to fish through the pressure waves which are generated, although the fish would need to be trapped at fairly close range to be killed. The ice also acts as a barrier between the water and the atmosphere, preventing exchange of gasses including oxygen. Usually ice melts before oxygen levels fall to dangerous levels, but in shallow organically rich waters microbial action in organic sediments can result in fish kills if the ice persists for more than a few days.



7 Accurate feeding

Once you have located an area where you are confident that there will be a few feeding fish, the number and speed that you are able to catch them will depend on a number of factors, not least your ability to hold the shoal and get them to take the hook bait. Accurate feeding is important all year round, but it is critical during the winter. By keeping your loose feed in a very restricted zone you can ensure any feeding fish concentrate their efforts close to your hook bait. There is no harm fishing just off the main feeding spot to try for a bonus fish, but the best chance of success will come from the hotspot and the tighter the feed pattern, the better the odds.



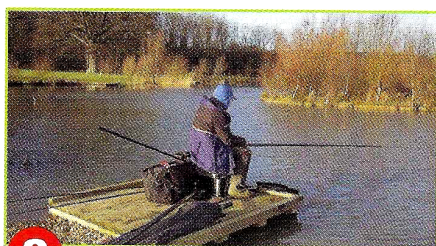
9 Water temperatures

Water is at its most dense (heaviest) at 4°C, so in winter the water at the bottom of deep lakes is often at this temperature. During milder spells, the water at the surface could be several degrees warmer, and it is likely to be better to fish up in the water or in the shallows. During prolonged very cold spells the water at the surface and in the margins is often close to freezing, and the water gets progressively warmer as the depth increases. Even when the surface is frozen there is often a 4°C layer in the deepest parts of the lake. When it is very cold fishing close to the bottom in deeper areas is likely to be most productive.



12 Groundwater feeds

Wherever water bubbles up from the ground it has a bearing on the fish in the vicinity. Chalkstreams and groundwater fed lakes respond differently to spate rivers and run-off fed lakes, particularly in terms of water temperature. Underground aquifers are huge, and being underground they are largely protected from the heating and cooling effects of the weather. Consequently, the water tends to come out of the ground at roughly the same temperature all year round. During cold spells, groundwater fed water bodies are effectively being continually cooled by the atmosphere but, as soon as the temperature rises, this cooling effect is removed and the water temperature quickly rises, particularly close to the upwellings.



8 Lighten up

Several factors allow you to fish with lighter tackle during the winter months. Smaller baits work well in winter and, therefore, smaller hooks are appropriate. Fish swimming ability is reduced at lower temperatures and, although they still need to be played carefully, the risk of being snapped is slightly reduced in cold water. In most cases, aquatic vegetation will have died back, and the risk of fish becoming snagged will also be reduced.

These factors combine to allow lighter gear to be used, and this will result in more bites. The main exception to this rule is when targeting barbel in flooded rivers, where strong gear is still required.



10 Decaying vegetation

Areas where decaying vegetation accumulates can be difficult to fish, due to the masking effects of the bits of weed. However, they are often worth targeting, particularly in shallow water bodies, as a small amount of heat is produced by the decay process and therefore such areas can be slightly warmer than elsewhere. In addition, these areas are often a home to invertebrates which are the favoured food of many fish species of all sizes.



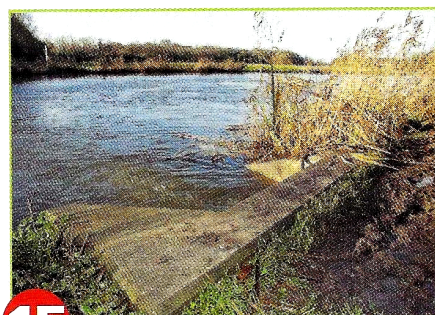
13 Flavour leakage

With the fish less active and mobile in cold water, it is important that you can advertise the presence of your hook bait over long distances. There are several ways this can be achieved. If you are catching stick with what is working, but if not there are a few rules of thumb which may help put a fish on the bank. Increasing the concentration of flavours ensure there is more available to leak off, and the use of alcohol based flavours will maximize the leak off rate. The consistency of the bait is important, and soft pastes release flavour more rapidly than harder boiled baits.



14 Predator hotspots

As shoaling species such as roach, dace and bream congregate during winter, it should not be surprising that these areas also become hotspots for predatory species such as pike, zander and perch. In stillwaters, the shoals are likely to keep on the move, and it pays to keep an eye on other anglers, and diving birds, to try and track or predict these movements. In rivers the shoal fish may not be able to move extensively, and might be confined to marinas or backwaters. Targeting predators at the entrance to such offline areas is generally very productive.



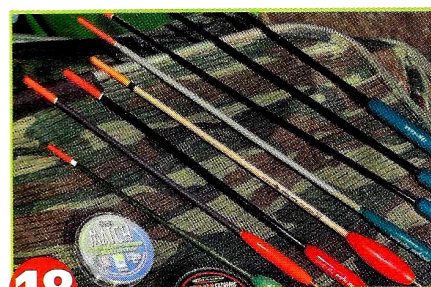
15 Warm water inflows

Given that temperature is so important to fish, it should come as no surprise that anywhere that warm water enters a water body is likely to be a winter hotspot. Heated effluent from power stations is one obvious example. Other inputs, such as run off from urban conurbations and sewage effluent returns, can be several degrees warmer than the main river particularly when the river is affected by snow melt. Swims immediately downstream of these inflows are worth targeting, particularly for mobile species such as roach and dace.



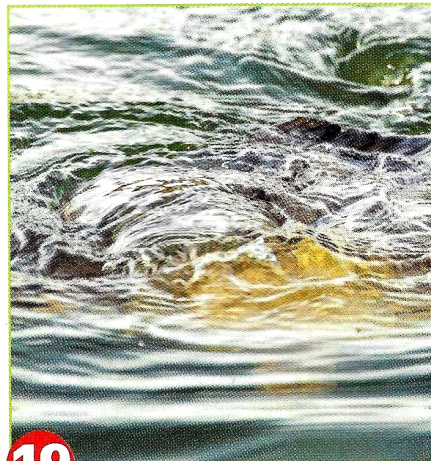
17 Instant attraction

One important trick to use in winter is to attract fish into the swim, and stimulate them to feed, without giving them any, or minimal, free food. This can be achieved in a number of ways, and the effectiveness of each method varies between species. Fish are generally inquisitive and opportunistic, and are often prepared to investigate things which are out of the ordinary. A cloud of very fine particles created from molehill soil or the liquid portion from mashed bread contain very little nutritional value, but can draw fish towards the hook bait. In a similar way, very finely chopped worm or maggots introduces a very attractive cloud and scent trail which can stimulate bites on the coldest days.



18 On the slide

While it is true that fish commonly move towards deeper water during the winter, it doesn't always follow that they stay close to the bottom. The presence of planktonic food items, or attention from predators, can result in fish like roach forming shoals which are off the bottom. In these circumstances a sliding float is the best tool for the job. Regular loose feed may be required to hold the shoal, and it may also pay to change the depth if the bites dry up.



19 Roll with it

Rolling fish are a good sign at any time of year but, when fish are tightly shoaled, spotting rolling fish in winter can save many wasted hours fishing in the wrong places. Seeing rolling fish not only tells you where the fish are but, importantly, rolling fish are feeding fish, or at least have recently fed, and such areas should be key targets. Quite often a single hook bait presented in an area where fish have been seen rolling is a shortcut to winter success.



20 Dark delight

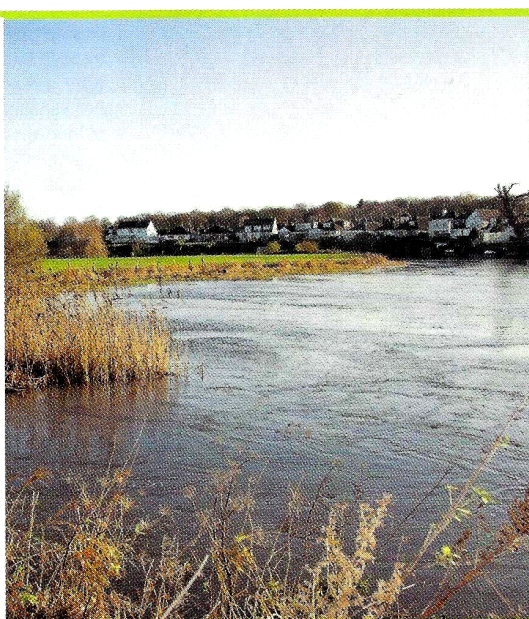
Fishing in the dark in winter is perhaps not the most appealing prospect, but those who restrict their activity to during the daylight hours can be missing out on good sport. In stillwaters some species make use of the cover of darkness to roam further, and if sport has been slow during daylight it often pays to stay on into dark as fish move onto the feed. When rivers are low and clear fish are reluctant to venture far from cover but, at night, they can be in open water and a large lump of flake trundled through a swim after dark often picks up a big chub.



Good luck
Follow these tips and I'm sure you'll start 2010 with some quality catches, like this barbel I caught during a winter's night.

16 Confluence swims

River level not only affects how easy swims are to fish, it also affects the distribution of fish inasmuch as some areas are not worth targeting under certain conditions. Confluence swims, however, are reliable at a wide range of water levels, and for very good reason. Where two river flows meet, an area of slack water is almost always created, which acts as a refuge to fish from being displaced by the floodwater. In addition, unless the two rivers are of equal size, it is normal for the smaller water course to become 'backed up' by the larger one. This results in deep steady flowing water immediately upstream of the confluence, which becomes an attractive area for fish from the more flooded main reach.



Half a Century of Irish Angling. By Geoff Copper

Living in rural Ireland is grand but we are still semi in the dark ages. No fibre broadband and up until now Vodafone providing 2meg or less. New lot employed and now have around 20 meg. Appears to work.....for now! I have lots to write about. Some of it at times may be contentious but true. You may have to have broad shoulders to print it. I think you have.

Ireland is not all fish and Guinness mate. Pollution is rife and poaching is a major problem. On the brighter side i have started coaching young Luke Tully who's just 14. He was brought to me last year and will make a goodun. He's fishing with the adults. Last two matches he's picked up a 150 Euro and an 80. I haven't had a pint of Guinness out of it yet! I love it when the kids beat the so called big hitters. He will fish for Ireland.

The Great Cormorant Debate.

What I write is purely my own observations, actions and studies over the past 40 years. Controversial and not always the opinions of others. To the best of my knowledge the first Cormorant invasion was on a club gravel pit near the A1 and close to the market town of ST Neots. It was almost 40 years ago and I was working for what was then Anglian Water as a fisheries officer. The nearest salt water would be some 50 miles plus away at Denver Sluice. No previous reported sightings had been made of them so how they ended up on one of our local gravel pits is a bit of a mystery.

They arrived in numbers and first attracted the attention of the local 'twitcher society' who were delighted to see what is a sea bird so far inland. The anglers who paid club fees to fish there were not so happy as they witnessed their precious fish stocks being devoured before their very eyes. A call to 'remove' them soon went up which brought instant condemnation from members of the RSPB. The anglers were very quickly reminded that Cormorants were a protected species and couldn't be shot.



At this juncture I would like to add, although I love most types of bird life (feathered or otherwise) my opinion of the bird watching fraternity differs greatly. They certainly do not like anglers and care not one jot for the fish we do our best to protect. They regularly demonstrate this attitude as every water they take over angling is the first thing they veto.

Nigel Armstrong my sidekick in the area and I visited the fishery and witnessed what was taking place first hand. It was carnage. We were staggered at the size of fish being swallowed and because of the law as it stands powerless to stop it. Within days the local flora also began to suffer. The trees where they roosted and the grass below soon turned a pale shade of grey as the acidic droppings began to kill them. It soon became very obvious that these creatures were an eating crapping machine. What went in was very quickly processed and very nasty stuff came out of the other end.

Purely for scientific purposes I took it upon myself to shoot a couple. Yes, naughty of me I know but what we found was devastating. One bird had 27 small fish in it's gullet. The other had a similar number. It became clear that all the mature stock fish had been eaten and the immature fish were now going the same way. Anglers were now catching nothing.

A short time later I got a house visit from Terry Kaye, a life long buddy and full time fisheries officer on Grafham Water. As most of you will know Grafham then was a premier trout fishery and just 5 miles from my house at Offord. He not only came to drink my beer but to tell me the Cormorants had arrived on the lake. Their original position was only a short flight from the reservoir just West and 4 miles South. We had a dilemma. The birds were filling themselves up on trout plus Grafhams coarse stocks. They were that full some of their attempts to take off had to be aborted until they had emptied what they had devoured. We watched their movements and when they managed to take off flew back to the original roost area. A plan was 'hatched.'

Just a short distance away from the dam wall stands the water tower. The reservoir is topped up from the New Cut at Offord plus a small brook which enters the top end of the lake. Terry myself and Micky Bass who was another full time bailiff on Grafham decided to 'scare' the intruders away. We all had shot guns and figured the bangs would 'scare' em off. Arriving at first light the clever birds sent a scout first to see if all was clear. Wanting to make sure we scared as many as possible the scout was allowed to settle only to be accompanied a short time later by it's greedy mates. The first salvo was amazing as the birds scattered across the water like out of control power boats. The remarkable thing was that the surprise and shock was such that I swear several died of fright. The survivors attempted to visit twice more and obviously copped on that the sound from the ground assault was too much for their sensitive ears and cleared off.

The end of the story. Not so. My next caller was Bernard Hunt. A good mate and tidy angler. He was the manager on the complex of lakes at St Ives (Cambridgeshire) which were owned by the gravel company. Bernard informed me that 'his' lakes were being devastated by the now named Black Death. I think I was probably the first to call them that, more than apt I think. One lake had a small Ireland on it with a large solitary tree. Plan two was to row out use a camouflage net and 'scare' em off as they came in. The first night we shocked a few and then they cleared off only to return when we had left. In the meantime anglers were giving Bernard serious stick as they watched their beloved fish including Mirrors and Commons being eaten before them.

Plan 3. The big tree in the lake was as they thought a pretty safe refuge. We couldn't sit out there 24 hours a day and they new it. I came up with the final solution. We decided to chop the tree down. The large chain saw made short work of it as it crashed partly on the ground and making a massive splash as the upper branches hit the water. The birds were gone but their was another aftermath. The headline in the local newspaper the following Friday read 'Vandals Chop Down local Landmark.' Apparently the 'tree' was known as the hanging tree and in the past had been used for that very purpose. Them bloody Cormorants have a lot to answer for.

IRISH SPECIMEN

by Declan T. Quigley

DESPITE the current widespread distribution of roach in Irish waters, it is perhaps ironic that fish of specimen size are extremely thin on the ground. The Irish roach population, which was limited to only two river systems during the 1950's, has undergone a dramatic explosion within the past twenty years and at present there are very few catchments that have escaped the invasion. The instability caused by the expanding roach population has made the task of the specimen hunter a very difficult one. It would appear that it will take many years for the roach to reach ecological equilibrium within Irish freshwater ecosystems.

In order to analyse the potential of specimen roach angling in Ireland, it is necessary to examine the events that have led to the current population explosion and the effects that this is having on the quality of Irish coarse angling in general.

The roach, along with the dace, were introduced into Irish waters in comparatively recent times. In 1889 a Mr J.C. Truss came over from England with

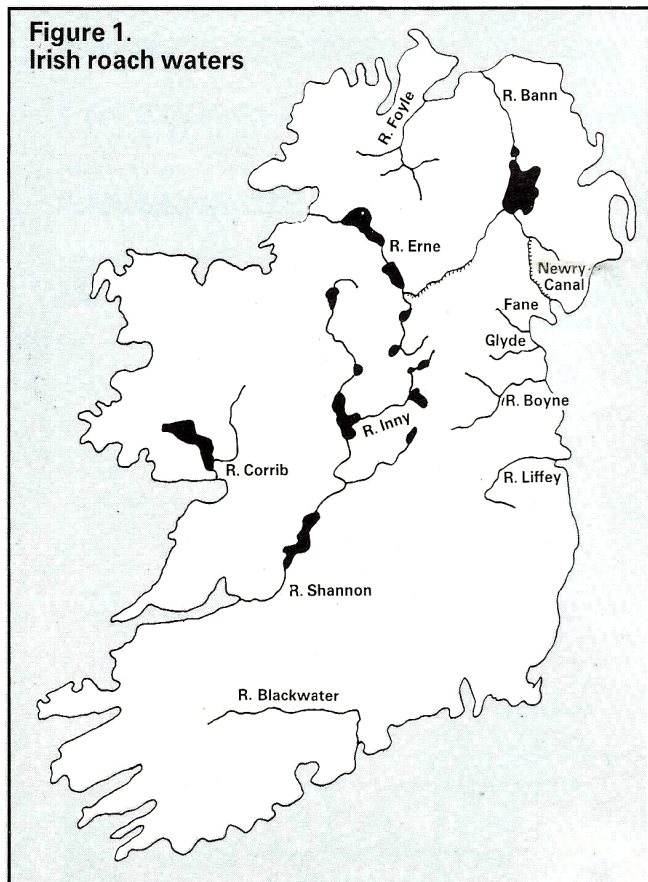
two cans of roach and dace livebait. While he was fishing for pike on the Munster Blackwater, a rising flood swept the cans of livebait into the river and about two years afterwards, the fish were noticed in the river. Within a few years, the roach and dace had colonised the entire system.

In 1905, the Duke of Abercorn transferred 100 roach from the Blackwater into the lakes at Baronscourt in Co Tyrone in Ulster. It was thought that these fish escaped into the Foyle system nearby during the very wet winter of 1905-6, but it was not until 1958 that roach were positively identified from this system. However, Bernard Venables referred to the roach fishing in the Fairywater (a tributary of the Foyle) as the best in the British Isles in an article published in the angling press in 1957. Indeed, during the late 1950's a 4 lb roach was reported from the Fairywater, at that time the biggest ever claimed in the British Isles.

During the period 1960-80, there was a rapid spread of the roach into a further seven major catchments: Erne (1967); Bann;



Figure 1.
Irish roach waters



Shannon (1973); Fane, Boyne and Liffey (1977); Corrib (1979). Figure 1. shows the current distribution of roach in Irish waters.

The success of the roach colonisation may be attributed to its enormous reproductive capacity from an early age, its ability to adapt to all types of freshwater habitats and their relatively long life span. When introduced into waters where they were previously absent, the roach compete with the indigenous species for both food and spawning territories, eventually becoming the dominant species. Roach can complicate the natural balance of things further by cross-breeding with such species as bream and rudd, resulting in various hybrids which, contrary to popular opinion, are not sterile, at least up to the second generation.

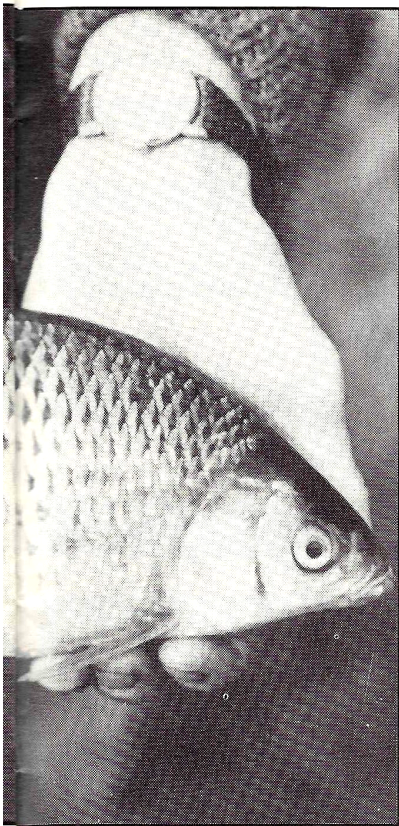
Initially, the agents of roach dispersal were identified as pike anglers, particularly of continental origin, but in recent years some blame has been directed at the match angling fraternity. Undoubtedly, it is the match angler that has benefited most from the spread of roach and to a lesser extent, the pleasure angler. Unfortunately, in the long term, there are likely to be detrimental effects on the

renowned high quality of Irish specimen coarse angling. Despite the introduction of legislation aimed at controlling the transfer of roach from one water to another, the species continues to permeate every drop of water on this island.

In the space of 10 years, the roach had completely colonised the Erne system, penetrating even into the headwater streams. Prior to the introduction of roach, the Erne was famous for its specimen bream but since 1971 there has been a marked decline in this respect (see *Coarse Angler*, May 1983). Although no roach of specimen size have been recorded from the Erne, the system distinguished itself as a top quality match water during the late 1970's. The River Erne at Enniskillen produced three successive world match record weights, in 1977 (166 lb 11½ oz, by Ian Heaps), 1978 (176 lb 3 oz, by Russell Goodacre) and 1979 (207 lb ½ oz, by Dennis Willis). Roach predominated in these record catches.

It has been said about the roach in the River Bann that there are six feet of fish for every three feet of water. The Bann is probably the best match water in the world today, having surpassed the Erne by establishing two new world

ROACH



Left: A large roach from the River Erne system

system. It would appear that they are currently confined to the upper tributaries of this system, particularly the River Inny, but it is only a matter of time before they spread southwards throughout the whole system. It is worrying to think about what will happen when the roach finally take over such recognised specimen fish areas as Lough Ree and Lanesboro. No specimen roach have been recorded from the Shannon to date.

The rivers Fane, Boyne and Liffey were once acclaimed for their salmon fishing but today it is not unusual to find match anglers along the banks of the Liffey. Needless to say, roach predominate among the catches.

It is obvious that the roach explosion is still in a highly volatile situation, especially within the systems colonised during the past twenty years. Clearly, the angler intent on catching a specimen roach must look to those waters where the roach have established themselves at an equilibrium level within the local populations of other coarse fish. This fact narrows the field down to two waters: the Munster Blackwater and the Foyle system.

The Munster Blackwater still cradles Ireland's pristine roach population and undoubtedly offers the best chance of a specimen. In fact, this is the

only system from which specimen roach have been recorded. Between 1963 and 1975, a total of 91 specimens, weighing upwards of 2 lb, were authenticated by the Irish Specimen Fish Committee (ISFC) — see Figure 2. All of these fish, with the exception of one, were caught at Cappoquin. The peak years for specimen roach on the Blackwater were from 1965 to 1970 but since then, the roach appear to have deserted the well-known swims and catches have declined dramatically. The roach are still there in good numbers but anglers would need to do a bit of exploring in order to find new 'hot-spots'.

The current Irish record roach, weighting 2 lb 13½ oz (from Cappoquin in 1970), is quite small by English standards (see *Coarse Angler*, January 1983) but there is every chance of a 3 lb fish from the Blackwater. In 1968, Stan Coxhead from Wigan, is reported to have caught 26 roach over 2 lb in 26 consecutive casts while fishing the River Aloe, a side water of the Blackwater at Kanturk (the biggest weighed 2 lb 12 oz, the smallest, 2 lb 8 oz)! During the same year, the Blackwater at Fermoy hosted the World Championships.

Roach can be caught in the Blackwater throughout the year but late Summer and early Autumn are probably the best times for specimen fish (see Figure 3). During May and June, the roach migrate upstream to spawn but for the remainder of the year they can be found throughout the system.

Over 99% of the Blackwater specimens were caught from the famous Bacon Factory stretch at Cappoquin. The roach in this area were veritable vampires, having acquired a fiendish taste for the blood that poured into the river below the

Bait:	% Success:
Blood	60.2
Maggot	29.5
Worm	3.5
Caster	3.5
Bread	1.1
Blackberry	1.1
Cotton wool	1.1

Table 1.
Relative success (expressed as a percentage of the total) of the various baits used in the capture of specimen roach between 1963 and 1975 inclusive.

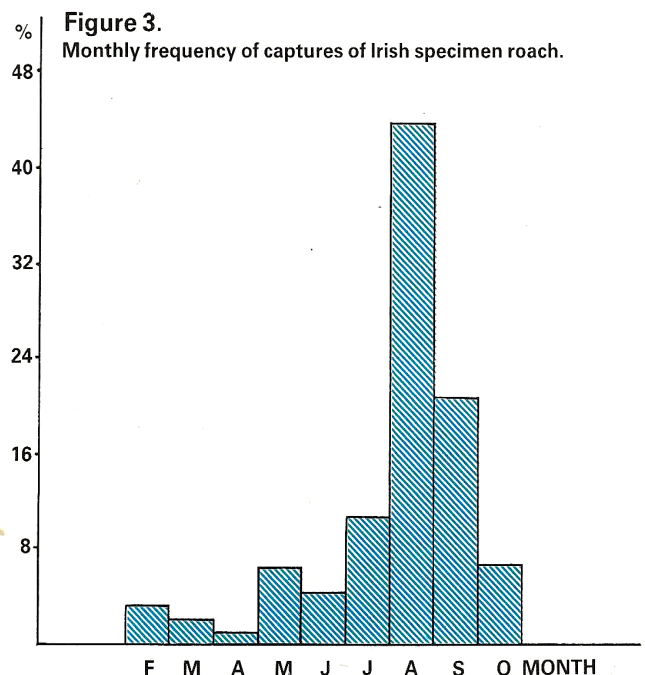
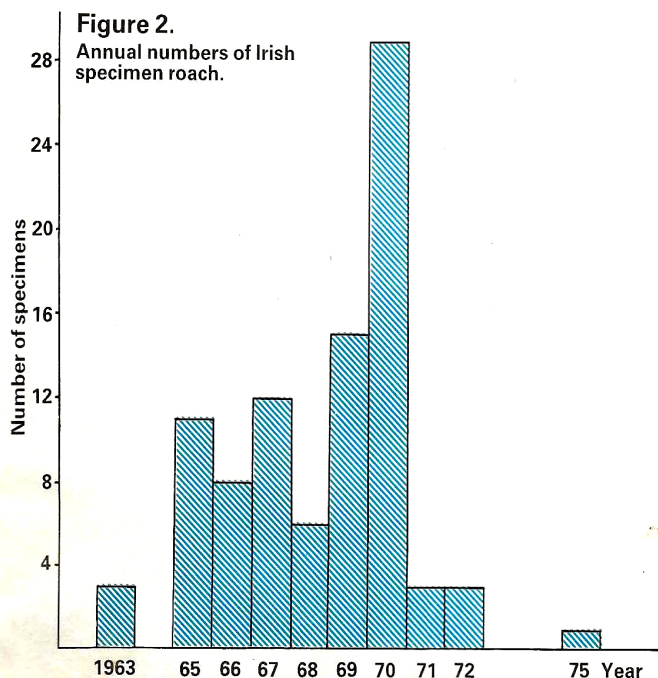
factory. There was no need for groundbait, only the blood-curdling squeals of the doomed pigs, to lure the roach and roach-thirsty anglers. Blood-baits drew no less than 60.2% of the Blackwater specimens to the nets (see Table 1). In recent years, however, this stretch has become anaemic(!) because the Bacon Factory changed its method of operation and the roach have had to revert to their natural diet.

Although roach are thought to have become established in the Foyle system during the earlier part of this century, there have been no reports of specimens from this water since the late 1950's. Nevertheless, the Foyle offers the best chance of a specimen roach in Northern Ireland today but anglers will have to adopt more specialised techniques in order to catch them.

Apart from the salmon, the Irish roach is one of the most controversial of freshwater fish today. It is ironic that fisheries biologists are concerned with a population explosion with regard to the latter species and a population erosion of the former species. Whatever the fate of the salmon, the Irish roach is here to stay. ■

record match weights in 1981: 208 lb 1¼ oz by William Russell and 258 lb 9½ oz by Pete Burrell. Nevertheless, this system has yet to record roach of specimen size.

The roach have been relatively slow in colonising the Shannon



Angling Trust Vacancies

Join our board of non-executive directors

We're looking to appoint new non-executive directors to our board who will help us deliver our "Fishing for Good" strategy and encourage everyone to experience fishing. Join us in our mission to fight for fish, fishing, and the environment.



We are looking for people who can help us deliver our objectives, grow and build on our successes, increase our membership and influence, widen participation, and celebrate the ever-growing diversity within our organisation and sport. You don't have to be an angler, but you must have a keen interest in issues affecting angling and the aquatic environment, ready to bring your knowledge and skills to your role as a director of our experienced board.

You must be prepared to give approximately 10 days per annum as a non-executive director working on behalf of the Angling Trust without remuneration, other than reasonable legitimate expenses incurred.

Becoming a director

Drive change in one of the biggest participation sports in the country

Ensure the health and wellbeing benefits of angling are accessible to all

Make a positive difference to the environment

Benefit from training and personal development

Join a network across sports NGBs, environmental NGOs, and government departments

Engage directly with a diverse cross section of society

Help to lead one of the most active volunteering communities in the UK

What you bring to the role

Impressive communication and social intelligence

Enthusiasm for developing angling and protecting the marine and freshwater environment in line with the agreed strategy Collaborative approach to working as part of a team and agreeing a consensus position Capability to perform the duties of a director in a company limited by guarantee

Appreciation for the importance of a positive public perception of angling to develop the sport

Excellent independent judgement Willingness to join in discussion and the courage to check and challenge

What will make you stand out

There are areas of expertise we'd like to see more of in our board mix, so we're very interested in hearing from applicants with one or more of these skillsets.

Applications will be reviewed by our Nominations Committee on 11 June 2024 and any suitable candidates will be given further details of our interview process.

fundraising

policy / advocacy / marine

digital marketing / PR / communications

domestic competitions / elite performance / sports participation



Who we are

Fishing is one of the country's largest participation sports and the benefits of angling have never been more widely recognised—the Angling Trust is the national governing body for the sport of angling in England as well as a leading environmental NGO, representing anglers and creating opportunities for all to experience fishing in a healthy aquatic world.

The Angling Trust has established itself as a leading voice in the protection and enhancement of the aquatic environment—we work across saltwater and freshwater environments alongside other leading partner NGOs as well as Fish Legal, our sister organisation, in advocating greater environmental protection, lobbying for positive change, and influencing political and NGO stakeholders in developing policy.

We are leading members of the End Sewage coalition and across the past 70+ years, anglers have done more to raise awareness of the mistreatment of our waterways and practically seek to improve habitats and ecosystems than almost any other stakeholder group.

In the past 12 months, we have introduced nearly 40,000 children and families to angling for the first time and engaged a further 20,000 primary school children through our innovative Reel Education programme. As an organisation, we have over 2,500 club and fishery members representing over 600,000 individuals—our army of national volunteers carry out thousands of water quality tests, thousands of community coaching sessions, thousands of voluntary enforcement hours, and we are rapidly approaching a million pieces of litter cleared from our aquatic environment.

Want to join us?

There are currently three vacancies and we would love to welcome those who can add to the mix of our board members by bringing new thinking styles, backgrounds, personalities, and perspectives to our table—and we believe we could make even better decisions if we had a more inclusive mix of people from under-represented communities on our board in order to more closely represent the wonderfully diverse world of angling today.

Email our Governance Manager, Karen Watkinson, at people@anglingtrust.net to apply directly or arrange an informal chat about the role—and do let us know if you require any additional support to enable your application.

To apply, please submit your CV along with a covering letter to tell us a bit more about how you will add to the mix of our board and strengthen our effectiveness with your skillset, perspective, background, or thinking style.

The closing date for applications will be 31 May 2024.

More information go to: <https://anglingtrust.net/about-us/angling-trust-vacancies/>

**WHAT DID THE FISH SAY WHEN
HE HIT A CONCRETE WALL?**


DAM.

GIVE A MAN A FISH AND
HE EATS FOR A DAY.
TEACH HIM HOW TO FISH
AND HE CAN AVOID THE WIFE
FOR A WHOLE WEEKEND!



**IF YOU CAN THINK OF A
BETTER FISH PUN,**

LET MINNOW


**OF COURSE
I TALK TO MYSELF
WHEN I'M
FISHING**
SOMETIMES I NEED EXPERT ADVICE

HERE, HOLD THESE!
I HAVE TO GO BACK
FOR MY WIFE!

Top 12 Kids Fishing Jokes

Ahoy, young anglers, and joke enthusiasts! Ready to dive into a world of giggles? We've got a boatload of the most fin-tastic kids' fishing jokes that will make you the star of the schoolyard. Whether you're a budding fisherman or just love a good chuckle, these jokes are perfect for sharing with friends and family.

Where do fish sleep? On a water bed!

What do you say if you find a fish using the toilet? Did I catch you at a bad time?

Why do fish live in saltwater? Because pepper makes them sneeze!

What do you call a fish with no eye? A fsh!

What does the Loch Ness monster eat? Fish and ships!

What kind of music should you listen to while fishing? Something catchy!

What do fish take to stay healthy? Vitamin Sea!

Why are fish good lawyers? Because they like to de-bait!

Why are fish so smart? Because they live in schools!

What is the most fun game for a family of fish to play? Salmon says.

What do you call a fake koi fish? A de-koi

What do you call a fish with a tie? So-fish-ticated!

Why did the fish always know how much it weighed? Because it had its own scales!

What do you get when you cross a fish with an elephant? Swimming trunks!

Why did the fish get bad grades? Because it was below sea level!

What do you call a fish that practices medicine? A sturgeon!

Why did the fish stay after school? To improve its current grades!

What do you call a fish that wears a crown? A king-fish!

Why did the fish go to Hollywood? It wanted to be a starfish!

What's a fish's favorite musical instrument? The bass guitar!





Fishing Tackle Box

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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/fishingtacklebox>

Two daiwa 4 leg rollers used 5 times, selling as a pair collection only, OX2 7ad



Old fishing scales .



As new, mk2 longer version , fusion carryall, £70
Aylesbury

View on
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/fishingtacklebox>



Brand new, still in box
Located Aldridge or Brownhills, West Midlands

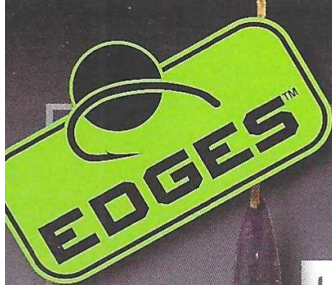


Shimano 8000 works absolutely fine unfortunately no spare spools
Collection Mk442dt



Very good fishing pole
5 top kits
No5 profesional repair
Perfect!!!





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

THE **BLOW BACK** RIG

ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR RIGS FOR PRESENTING SNOWMAN AND CRITICALLY BALANCED HOOKBAITS, THE BLOW BACK RIG IS A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF AN ANTI-EJECT PRESENTATION...

The Blow Back Rig is one of the most popular rigs in carp fishing, quite simply because over many years it has proven to be incredibly effective in helping angler's trick wary carp. This rig involves tying a small rig ring onto the Hair, which is then slid onto the hook so that it can run up and down the shank. The idea behind its mechanics is that should a carp pick up your hookbait and rig and then sense danger it will try to spit everything out, however as it spits the hookbait out the ring will slide up the shank leaving the hook still in place to grab hold of the bottom lip. In order to maximise the effectiveness of this rig we recommend that you use a long shank hook, with the Arma Point LS and Kuro S1 patterns being among the best. Our team of consultants also report that the rig is at its most effective when tied from a coated braid material such as the Coretex Matt or Camotex with the coating removed to create a supple Hair and hinged effect.

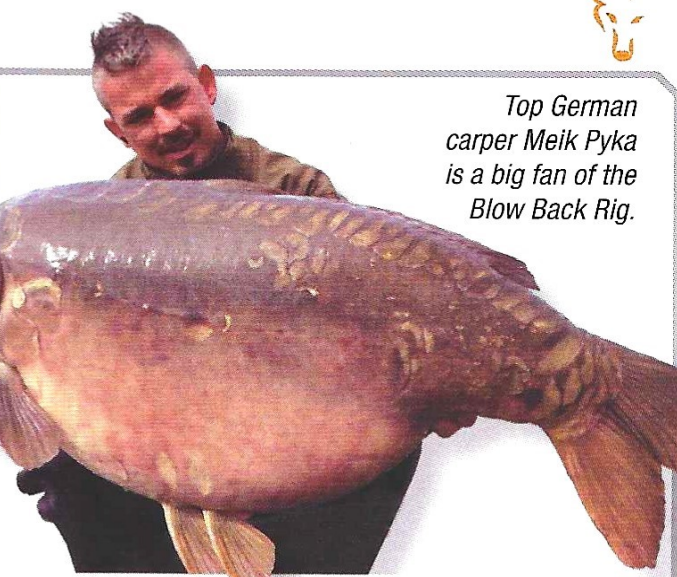
B



Top German carper Meik Pyka is a big fan of the Blow Back Rig.



THE COMPONENTS YOU REQUIRE TO TIE THIS PARTICULAR RIG.



HOW TO TIE THE BLOW BACK RIG



Start by carefully cutting yourself a 10ins length of the new Camotex Soft material.



You will then need to carefully strip away 3ins of outer coating to expose the supple braid.



Now tie a simple overhand loop in the end of the exposed braid, as shown as part of the Hair.



Thread your chosen hookbaits onto the loop and secure in place with an Edges Extender Stop.



Tie a 2.5mm Kuro Coated Rig Ring 5mm above the bait with a double overhand knot.



The next step is to thread your longshank hook through the rig ring, as illustrated.



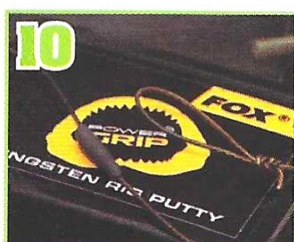
Position the ring at the top of the bend of the hook and then secure the hook with a knotless knot.



Now place a 1cm length of Trans Khaki Shrink Tube over the eye of the hook.



Carefully shrink the tubing down over the steam from a boiling kettle to create a 'kicker'.



Add a couple of blobs of Power Grip tungsten putty to the hooklink to help pin it down.

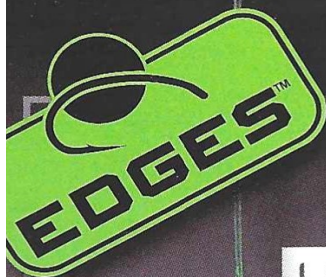



The Blow Back Rig is now complete and ready to be cast out to trick those rig-shy carp.

TOPEDGE

Try substituting the shrink tube for a Fox Line Aligna Adaptor to save time.





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

THE WITHY POOL RIG

THE WITHY POOL RIG IS PERHAPS ONE OF THE STRANGEST LOOKING RIGS IN MODERN CARP FISHING, BUT WHEN A CARP SUCKS IT IN IT VERY RARELY SPITS IT OUT WITHOUT GETTING HOOKED!

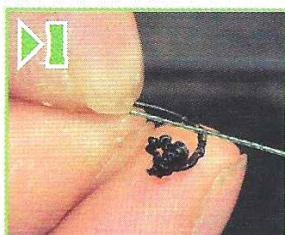
Top carper Steve Renyard, invented the Withy Pool Rig back in the late 1980's when he was trying to outwit the very tricky carp that resided in the historic Withy Pool fishery in Bedfordshire. The rig was incredibly effective for Steve and his friends and over the past 25-years has grown a reputation as one of the very best anti-eject pop-up rigs ever designed. The rig is particularly effective when fishing a boilie-only approach and tends to be more suited to tricking carp in excess of 20lb as it does represent a big mouthful for a carp to suck in (part of what makes it so hard to eject). The basic design of the Withy Pool involves using a long piece of shrink tube to create a large curve in the shank of the hook almost creating a circle hook effect. Creating the curve in the shrink tube can be a little fiddly and also time consuming so these days the vast majority of anglers opt to use a pre-formed sleeve such as Fox's Withy Pool Adaptors.





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

HOW TO TIE THE WITHY POOL RIG



1 Cut 8ins of Coretek 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 Wither Pool Adaptor onto a splicing needle, like so.



6 Slide the Wither 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/Wither Bin to maintain the curve in your rig when storing them.



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

Leader lessons

LEADERS are an essential part of modern carp fishing – or are they? It's becoming increasingly apparent that some fisheries are leaning towards banning them.

In most cases it's not a total ban on leaders, only those on the fishing rods with baited rigs. It seems many fishery bosses are uneasy about the implications of a length of stronger material behind an end tackle, or more crucially the inescapable knot that joins a leader to lighter reel line and the possible dangers knots back up the line pose to welfare of stocks.

To get the best out of modern tactics you won't be able to avoid using leaders. A spod outfit requires low diameter floating braid on the reel for effortless long range casting and easy line pick up and retrieve, with a heavy shockleader to absorb the punishment of repeatedly lobbing loaded rockets that can weigh anything up to 8 oz when loaded. Opinion is split on leaders for spodding, some preferring zero stretch heavy braid to help compress a rod more effectively, others favouring nylon. Since their introduction I've used the tapered leaders available from companies like ESP and Fox and find them brilliant.

The advantages are simple, one end of these leaders are high diameter, offering security of a high breaking strain in the first couple of rod lengths to guard against cracking off, the leader then tapering down to a finer line to reduce resistance in flight and offering a lower diameter for easier knotting to a fine braid reel line.

The smaller knot makes wraparounds and wind knots much less common than using higher diameter leader materials, and I've left spod rods rigged up for months at a time using tapered leaders without problems during repeated use.

I find tapered leaders longer than you need and tend to measure off three rod lengths (six arm spans) before tying, removing the excess from the thick end, still finding the breaking strain offered from a shortened leader more than sufficient. If you've not tried tapered leader you are missing out, they are user-friendly, long casting and reliable.

Marker rods benefit from leaders too. For long

A SPOD outfit requires low diameter floating braid on the reel for effortless long-range casting and easy line pick up and retrieve, with a heavy shockleader to absorb the punishment of repeatedly lobbing loaded rockets.





1 On spod rods a leader is standard kit, and a tapered mono leader makes for smaller knots, easier casting and fewer wind knots or wraparounds, they are brilliant.



2 Leaders on fishing rods are becoming increasingly unwelcome on fisheries. I am a very occasional user of fluoro leaders on braided lines but accept that end tackles are far safer without any leader, even in experienced hands.



3 Knots where leaders behind end tackles like these are joined to main line have serious rig safety implications and can make life very difficult for carp to jettison rigs and end tackle in the event of breakage.



4 Velocity from ACE is a tapered reel line which includes an eight metre leader length at each end of a 300 metre spool and is a brilliant solution to long casting or snag leaders on venues where leaders aren't allowed. You have the benefit of a leader without any knots - it deserves to catch on.

casting they require a shockleader, again to prevent breakage when banging 3-4 oz leads to distant features and tapered leaders again are first choice.

Even at short to medium range a leader is beneficial on a marker outfit. Being smooth compared with braid, nylon glides through a run ring easily and allows a float to pop up far more freely than with braid direct to the lead and float. If you fish smaller waters and aren't casting any distance just tie on two to three rod lengths of 12-15 lb mono pinched from your reels to make plumbing much less problematic.

Leaders on fishing rods I dislike as much as many fishery bosses. During the winter I occasionally add fluorocarbon leaders to reels carrying braid, preferring its reduced visibility and weight to keep

the line around the end tackle as low in the water as possible, but even when your knots are reliable and you're conscious of the rig safety implications of leaders, mishaps occur.

We forget that because our prime motivation is catching carp we almost always fail to see rules like a leader ban from a fishery owner's perspective.

If I had ever had to retrieve the decomposing body of just one good carp that had become tangled up and snuffed it thanks to three rod lengths of high breaking strain line behind the rig I would ban them too - and I know several fishery bosses who have had several experiences like this.

A big carp is worth hundreds, sometimes thousands of pounds and you can't blame fishery bosses for doing their level best to protect their

stock, which after all are their livelihood.

Although I've had no chance to fish with it yet, I'm sure that the new Velocity tapered reel line from Max Cottis' ACE offers a genuine solution to situations that require a leader on waters where they aren't allowed, and I hope it catches on.

Velocity is a mono reel line on 300 metre spools, but at both ends are tapered sections of higher breaking strain that give you a reel line with a leader at the rig end, tapering smoothly into lighter more standard diameter line after eight metres. The benefits are clear, you have the added strength of 25 or 30 lb mono where required as a shockleader but the lower diameter line behind it for easy distance casting.

Apart from allowing genuine distance advantages on waters where leaders are banned, it also has applications for heavy PVA bag and Method feeder work at shorter ranges where the increased breaking strain adds a welcome security against any crack offs. It also improves abrasion resistance behind a rig where the line is most likely to come into contact with sharp bars, mussels or snags.

With the tapered leader section at both ends of the spool, once you need to replace the line you can simply reverse it by winding back on to another empty spool rather than binning it if you lose too much of the leader section.

It's available in 10-25 lb, 12-30 lb and 15-30 lb, the 10 and 12 being the best choices where casting distance is priority, the higher strength 15-30 offering a practical option where you need a tough main line for big fish and snaggy and weedy swims, the 30 lb leader section offering a rubbing or snag leader to give extra protection against line damage.

Leaders on spod and marker rods are essential and pose no dangers to fish welfare. But leaders are becoming less welcome on many fisheries on the fishing rods which I understand completely.

End tackles are simply far safer without any knot behind them, and Velocity offers a great solution.

It deserves to be successful, and will only find more fans, as I am sure that the unease around leaders amongst fishery bosses is only going to spread, and bans will be coming into place.

DAVO'S WEEK AHEAD

I'm tweaking pop-up rigs - changing where the counter-balance sits makes a big difference how readily you hook fish it seems...

Legend From the Past Ivan Marks

I HAVE spent lots of time experimenting with maggots to discover as much as I can about them so that they can be used in original ways in order to obtain extra bites when the going is tough.

And while much of this search relates to maggots as hookbait, it also applies to using them for feed. Good swimfeeding is the most important single ingredient in match fishing – and it is just as important for pleasure fishing.

It's the match angler, however who finds out the folly of over-feeding a swim. The man who is fishing on his own, with no-one within close range, doesn't often get that sort of problem.

One unusual factor – something I would be surprised if many anglers have ever really thought about – is sticking maggots. That's making maggots stick together so well that they can be catapulted across the water in a concentrated heap.

There are many advantages to this. Because they are stuck together they fly further than they would were they fired as individual maggots.

The other important plus point is that the sticking maggots should and usually do all land on the surface together so your loose feed is concentrated... and so are the fish as the result.

You may so far think this is all very far-fetched and impractical but let me prove it to be otherwise. Here's what you need:

First you need good, clean maggots – pinkies or big hookers, it doesn't matter which. They must be clean but dry. Riddle out all the sawdust or whatever it is they are contained in because you need clean, neat, dry maggots.

You also need a shallow tray. A shallow baking tin or a similar shaped one in plastic will do nicely. Spread two or three handfuls of the maggots out on the tray and place them out of doors in a situation where the wind can blow on to them. The only other need is for one of two sticking agents... horlicks powder or sugar.

I find that Horlicks suits me best, not only because it is bought in

'STICKING' MAGGOTS GO FURTHER



COLUMN

handle a catapult properly it is possible to drop ball after ball of maggots into the same square foot at 15 yards range.

You can't make the maggots stick unless they are properly dried so that tray is a vital aspect. The maggots, laid out thinly all over the tray, are dried by the wind and will then stick.

It doesn't require massive quantities of Horlicks to make the maggots stick

small jars which are about the right size. But sugar is just as good.

Simply sprinkle two or three spoonfuls of either sugar or Horlicks in with the maggots, start the drying process with either a hair-dryer or the wind and the process is underway.

You help speed the sticking time by the way in which you pick up the maggots. You need to be continually picking some of them up, using your thumb and first two three fingers.

You may not believe this is going to work, but I assure you it does. After a while you will discover the maggots beginning to bind together, only a few at a time at the start.

But eventually you will find, as the result of this kneading or picking at them with fingers and thumb, that they stick into concentrations as big as you want. I suppose you could get them into balls the size of coconuts if you had any use for such concentrations but you only need the balls of maggots

to be big enough for your catapult.

There is no reason why you shouldn't treat as many maggots as you are likely to need so that they all stick. I've done a gallon and used most of them. It's a trick I've tried on the Thames and on the Welland and I'm sure it would work on many many more waters.

The only thing that can disrupt the process is rain. Once the maggots get wet they won't stick, so it figures that they unstick just as quickly as they hit the surface and sink singly rather than in bunches.

The real advantage is that the method allows you to loose feed at a greater distance than would otherwise be possible and it eliminates the need to use cereal groundbait as a means of adding weight to the maggots.

Accuracy is another plus factor. Whereas a pouchful of loose maggots shot from a catapult would spread themselves over an area perhaps 5ft or 6ft square (at maximum range) the sticking maggots are compact. Provided you can

so don't imagine that's in any way an expensive process. Two heaped spoonfuls is enough to treat a gallon.

It is certainly helpful to use a catapult with a net pouch rather than one with a solid plastic pouch. The maggots then leave the pouch more cleanly and travel further for the same amount of effort.

The sticking maggots are of most use on rivers where you are then able to feed the far bank with neat maggots, dispensing with groundbait. I've never yet managed to get a big weight of fish doing it but I have managed a few extra fish that helped me get further up the placings than might otherwise have been the case.

It happened when I tried it on the Thames at Reading. I drew a bad peg and couldn't make anything of it, but inevitably people turned up to watch me fishing.

As much to entertain them as to catch anything, I began this method of long range loose feeding... and got a 3 lb bream as the result.

That didn't win me a match but it got me a section place.

WINNING WAYS

STOKE-ON-TRENT AS member Dave Hall looks back to the day in September when he won the Fourth Division National on the Yorkshire Ouse... with just 6-10-8.

A NUMBER of factors helped me to lift top honours in the Fourth Division National Championship, first and foremost among them being the complete dedication of the Stoke-on-Trent AS squad, which in addition to my individual success, gained them promotion to Division Three.

Their overall weight was nearly 10 lb clear of their nearest rivals and the team gained two section winners, two runners up and three others in the top ten of their sections. A remarkable achievement.

The confidence of the team before the match was overwhelming. A direct approach to the River Ouse had been made months before the actual date. Every section bar two had been covered by actual practice on the water, match results were studied and local knowledge acquired.

Thus on the morning of the match there was not one member of the team who did not believe that he could lift the title and this confidence was reflected in the end results.

Almost every bait permissible had been covered, even bloodworm for the smaller fish. This was found later to be no use to me at all, because the river was four feet up and running through like a train.

At the draw, I drew J1 on the Benninborough length and a quick look through our match sheet showed this stretch was like-

ly to be won with chub or barbel.

I arrived at my peg and sat while I considered the best approach to get fish into the net. The decision finally was to use feeder as the main method so that I could get my bait down, as the river was running so fast. The second was the float.

Then came my first stroke of luck. A local walked along the stretch and when he reached me he sat down behind me and as I tackled up we had a lengthy conversation about this particular length, which he fished nearly every weekend. I was told of the nature of the swims down the whole length and of some of the big barbel that were present.

As far as I could see no one was geared for this, most taking float as the main line of fishing.

At the whistle, I cast out my feeder with 5 lb line to 4 lb hook-length to a hook straight out in front of me and let it pull around out of the main stream.

The feeder was at regular intervals filled with crushed casters and groundbait and worm was used as hookbait. I sat and waited with eyes fixed on the quivertip as it kept pulling around with the current.

Two hours passed, and doubts began to creep in. Had I done the wrong thing? Should I scale down or what? All the time I knew, though others were struggling

Dedication

- and one big barbel



A FEEDER-caught barbel and a roach were enough to give Stoke-on-Trent angler Dave Hall first place in the Yorkshire Ouse National.

that time was running out without a bite.

A change was needed and I started to trot down with the float, feeding all the time with groundbait and caster, maggot had taken over from the worm and on the third cast the float slid away. The strike was made which produced a

roach of 3½ oz. Another half-hour produced nothing.

There was only one thing for it – back on the worm. I used the same approach, filling the feeder with groundbait and caster, but increased the feeding by hand.

Finally a slight flicker on the tip, and I left it. Then the tip slammed around around and hand at the ready, I struck. This was it – one of those elusive barbel.

It tore off into the mainstream like a bat out of hell, taking line and tension as though it did not exist. I played it for about four minutes, then the rod eased as my line went slack and my heart sank as I retrieved the line. It had slipped the hook.

Still if there was one there was always the chance of more. The same approach was taken, half-an-hour lapsed, then it happened again – a slight flicker on the tip, then it swung around, the hook was set and the rod and line heaved under the pressure of the captive.

Without a doubt this was another barbel, which plunged headlong into a submerged weedbed with which I had come into contact previously. I left it, not wanting to lose this one, and my tackle practically creaked under the strain, but it could stay where it was until I was ready.

After roughly five minutes I felt the tackle ease slightly and started to pump it to the surface. Suddenly it appeared on the surface, and lay there motionless.

Time ticked by without further incident and thoughts crept through my mind. I should win my section, but if only I had not lost that other fish I should have been really high in the individual table. But in the event my total weight of 6 lb 10½ oz was enough to win.

John C Essex

A little more on Frank Oates who also did the illustrations for Peter Tombleson's book 'Match Fishing', an Angling Times 1957 publication. Frank wrote the wonderful 'Angling Champions' series for the old Midland Angler (1946-1964) showcasing the top anglers of his era, concentrating mainly on National Champions, but featuring other top anglers such as Billy Lane and Benny Ashurst. He also wrote for the Fishing Gazette, Angling and other magazines of the period. And we can't forget Frank's brilliant 1958 book 'Coarse Fishing Baits', which formed part of the Herbert Jenkins 'How to Catch Them' series. Another Frank Oates offering, 'Match Winning Secrets' was given to me by a friend and Leicester Angling Society top rod, Bill Herbert, who fished with Ivan and the brilliant Leicester side in the 60's. Since then I have



picked up another two copies of this rare 24 page booklet at the twice yearly Redditch Tackle fair. Known to very few is that Frank's classic iconic illustrations were used in 'How to Make Earthworms Pay, a 1958 book by Tom Parsons, printed in the USA and published by Abelard-Schuman Ltd. As we can see Frank was obviously a very busy man in the late 50's.

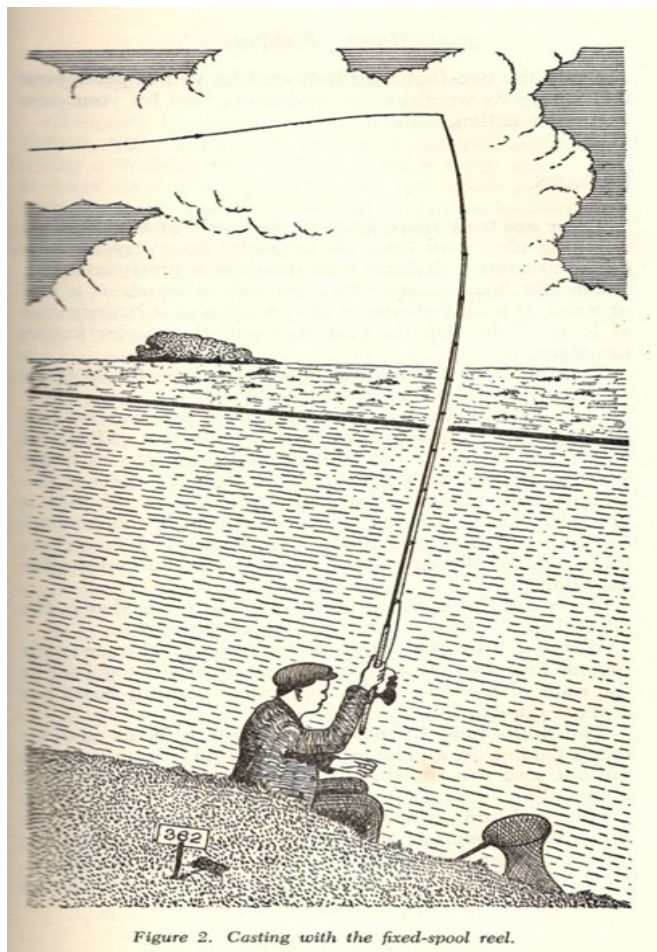
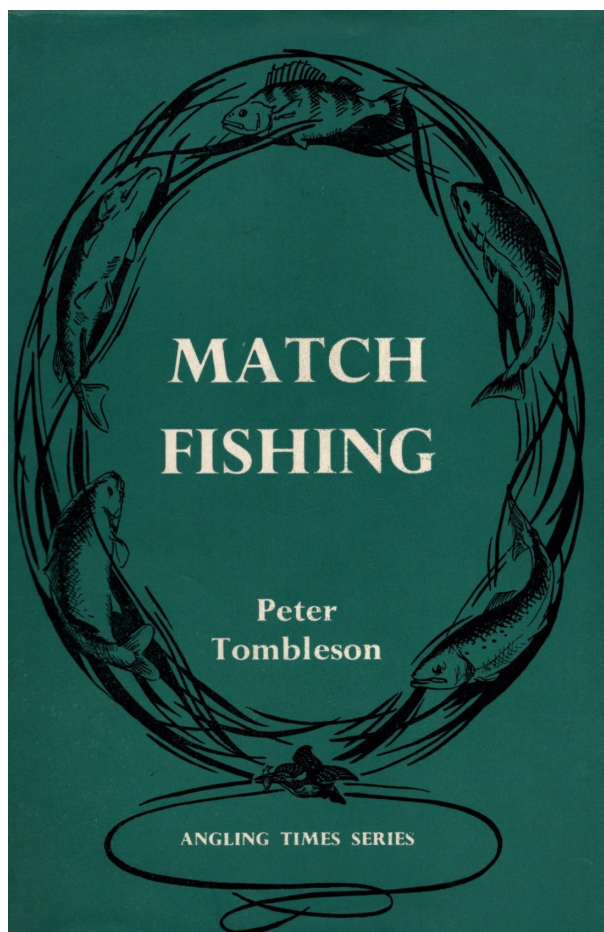
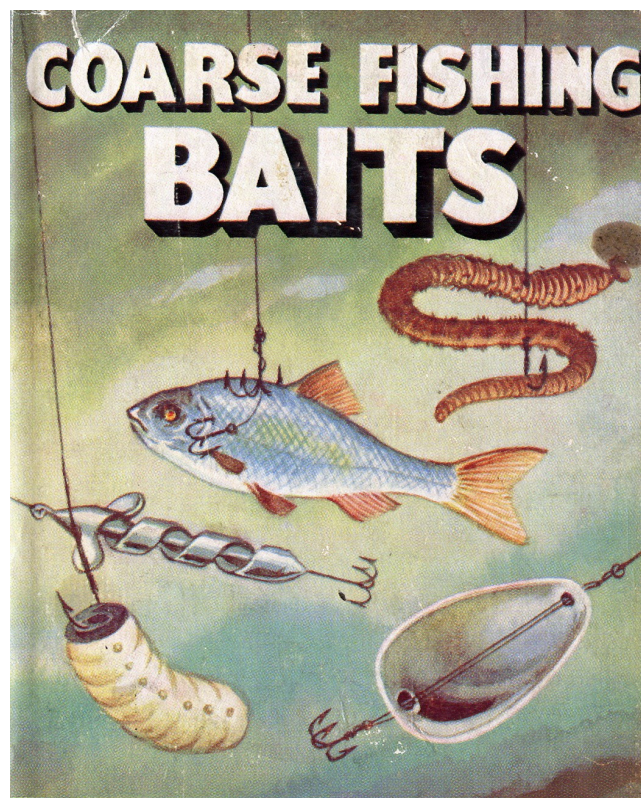
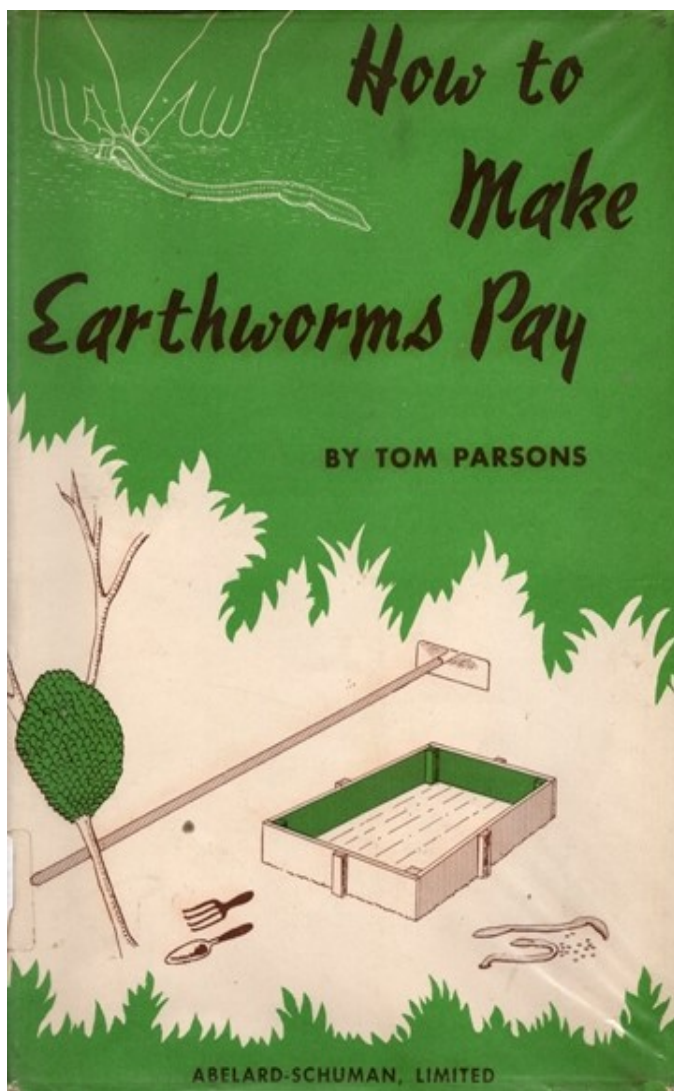


Figure 2. Casting with the fixed-spool reel.



**THEIR PREPARATION
AND USE
FRANK OATES**

6. TO IMPROVE SOIL STEADILY, WORMS SHOULD BE ADDED IN COLONIES AND CULTIVATED. ONCE STARTED THEY INCREASE THEIR POWER TO BENEFIT THE SOIL INSTEAD OF DIMINISHING AS OTHER FERTILIZING AGENTS EVENTUALLY DO.

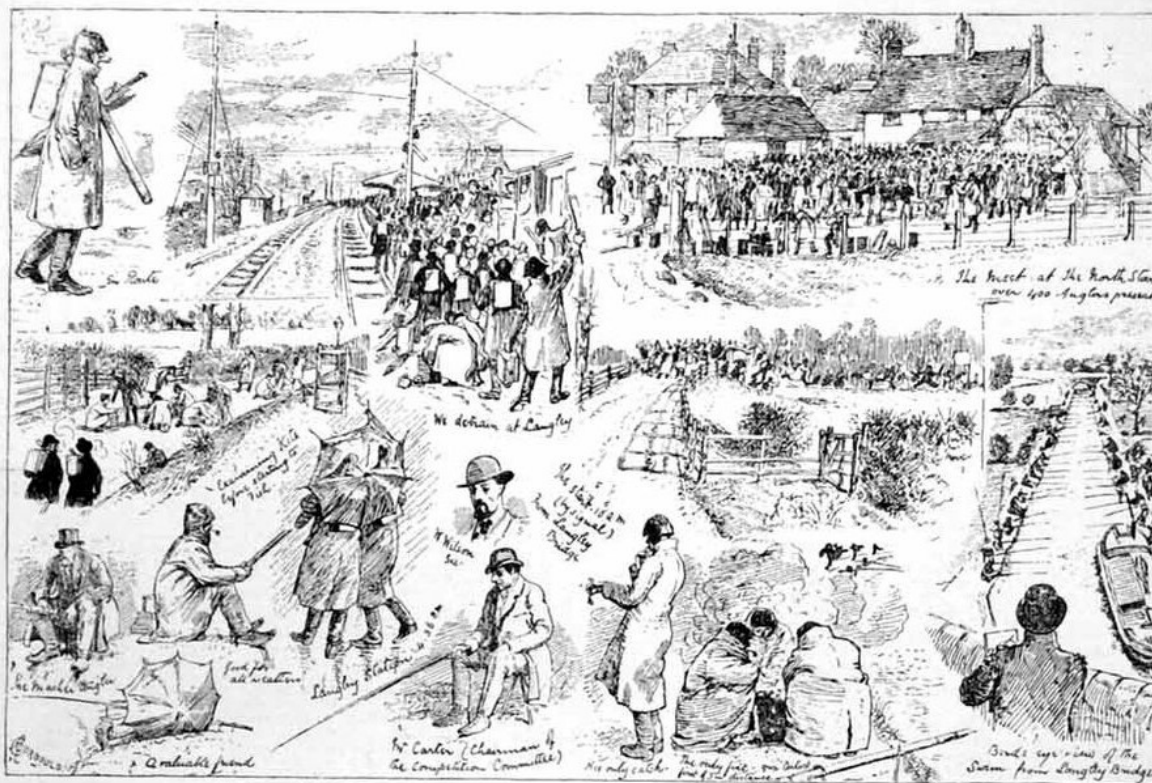
5. WORMS OFFSET LEACHING. LEACHING IS THE SINKING OF LIME FERTILIZERS ETC. DEEP INTO THE EARTH AFTER HEAVY RAIN OR SPRINKLING. WORMS BRING THE NUTRIENTS BACK TO THE TOP FOUR INCHES OF SOIL.

1. WORMS CONVERT SOIL INTO HUMUS. THEY EVEN IMPROVE WHAT IS ORDINARILY CONSIDERED GOOD TOPSOIL.

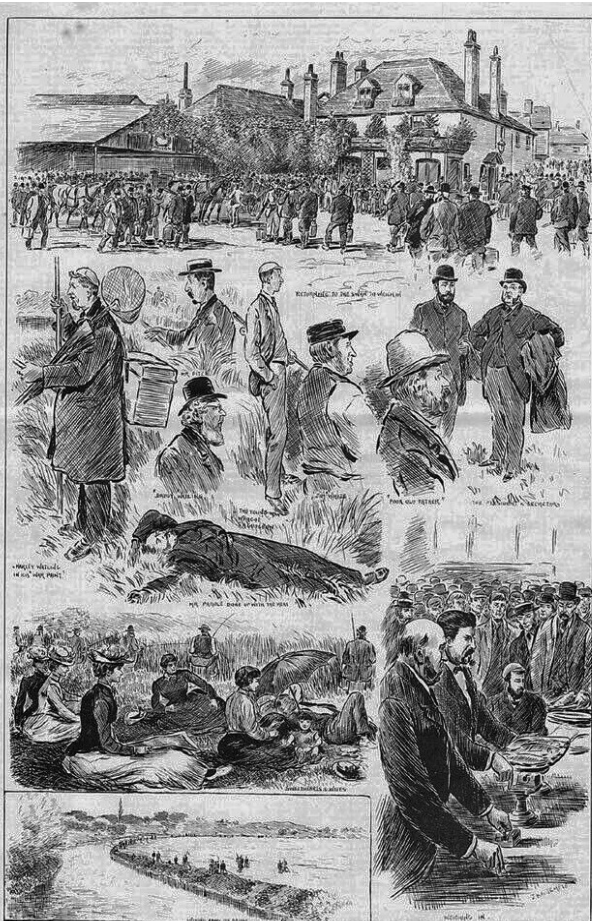
2. FEW ACRES IN THE WORLD HAVE ENOUGH EARTHWORMS TO KEEP THE SOIL CONTINUOUSLY PRODUCTIVE BUT BY ADDING WORMS AND ENCOURAGING THEM TO MULTIPLY ANY SOIL CAN BE IMPROVED TREMENDOUSLY.

3. SOIL FULLY PROCESSED BY WORMS IS IMPROVED BY 5 TIMES AS MUCH NITRATE NITROGEN, 11 TIMES AS MUCH POTASH, 7 TIMES AS MUCH PHOSPHORUS, 3 TIMES AS MUCH MAGNESIUM AND 40 PER CENT MORE HUMUS.

4. NO GROWING THING IS INJURED BY WORMS. MOST INSECTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS MAY IMPROVE SOME SPECIES OF PLANTS, BUT THEY SOMETIMES INJURE OTHER SPECIES. WORMS ARE BENEFICIAL TO EVERYTHING ROOTED IN SOIL, FLOWERS, SHRUBS, GRASS, VEGETABLES ETC.



COMPETITION IN AID OF THE ANGLERS' BENEVOLENT FUND
A ROVING COMPETITION AT LANGLEY (SLOUGH CANAL) DECEMBER 18



The Match of the Season!

A Great All-England

Angling Sweepstakes

Will be Fished in the RIVER WITHAM on

Sunday, Oct 22nd, at Kirkstead.

Entrance **5/-** All Entry Money given in Prizes.

Draw at King's Arms at 12. Entries taken till 11-30 a.m.

List of Minor Prizes & Donors.

**Mr. FRED PRIESTLEY, Station Hotel, Wicker, will give a
CASE OF CUTLERY to the Winner.**

Mr. CHAMBERS, Tailor, Spital Hill, will give a GENTLEMAN'S OVERCOAT; also a PAIR OF TROUSERS.

Mr. CHATTERTON, Pork Butcher, Abbeydale Road, will give a SIDE OF BACON.

Mr. SMITH, Silversmith, West Street, will give a FLOWER VASE.

Mr. FRIEDRICH, Pork Butcher, Wicker, will give a HAM.
Messrs. RAWSON'S, Bond Street Brewery, will give a Six

Gallon BARREL OF "BULL-DOG."

Mr. BOND, Fent Stores, Wicker - PAIR OF BLANKETS.

Mr. G. HILL, Castlefold Market, BAG of BEST POTATOES.

**Mr. MARPLES, Wine & Spirit Merchant, Grimesthorpe-Rd.
will give a PAIR OF GARDEN SHEARS.**

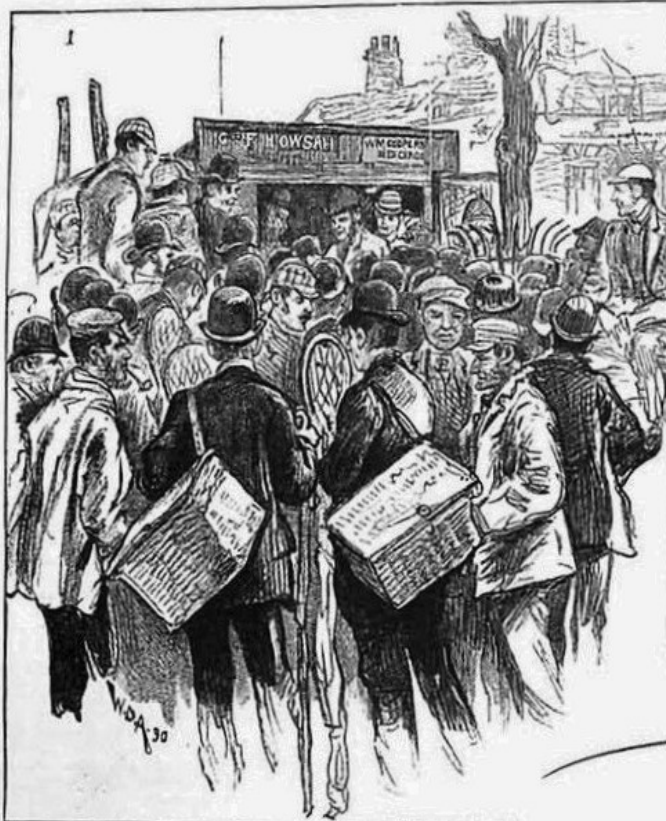
Mr. ALF. CROFTS, 517, Attercliffe Road, FISHING ROD.
Mr. GILDERS, Wicker, Set of FALSE TEETH to measure.

Mr. H. GREEN, Kings Arms Hotel, Kirkstead, will give a GOLD MEDAL for Most Live Fish returned.

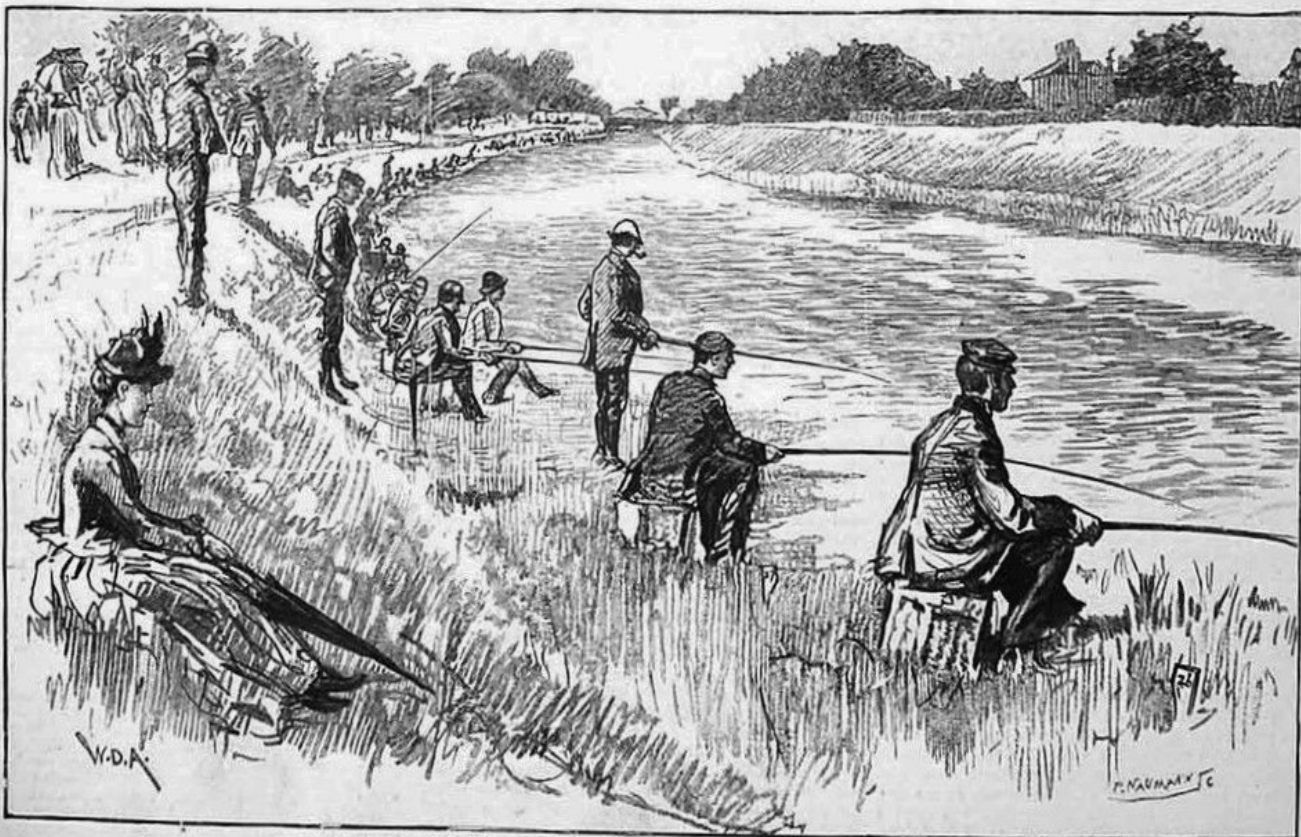
These Prizes will be on view at Mr. Chambers', Spital Hill

also at Mr. Fred Priestley's, Station Hotel, Wicker.

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also at Mr. Fred Priestley's, Station Hotel, Wicker.



1. Drawing Numbers for Fishing Stations.
2. Weighing a Catch.
3. Suspense.



GENERAL VIEW OF THE WATER.
A FISHING COMPETITION IN LINCOLNSHIRE.

Match Results April 2024

Canals

Bateman Vine AC, Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal (Wolverhampton AA Water), Gailey Lea Lane Section, Otherton, Penkridge, Staffs. Sun. Billy 'the worm' Oakley 9-12-0 (two bream); P. Doyle 4-8-0 (one bream); M. Ashmore 4-1-0 (one chub); D. Whiley 1-15-0 (one perch).



Bridgtown Social AC, Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal (Goodyear

AC Water), Slade Heath Basin & Boats Sections, Coven, Staffs. Sun. Tony Beech (Bridgtown Social AC) 2-13-3; Mark Foster (Bridgtown Social AC) 2-5-2; Colin Tillet (Bridgtown Social AC) 1-13-7; Hughie Blair Snr. (Bridgtown Social AC) 1-4-0; Roy Grosvenor (Bridgtown Social AC) 1-3-8; Roger Corbett (Bridgtown Social AC) 0-9-12. (all small mixed silvers nets).

Canal Open, Shropshire Union Canal, Waverton, Ches. Sun. Keith Cummings 3-14-10; Simon Loyley 3-8-4; Mark Crawford 2-15-12.

Canal & River Trust Canal Pairs Championship 2024 Qualifier, Shropshire Union Canal, Soudley, Shrops. Sat (96 anglers [48 pairs]). Dave Trafford 11-12-0; Steve Watson 11-10-8; Richard Guest 9-11-2; Pete Moore 8-9-0; Fred Lakin 7-4-4; Mark Roberson 7-0-0. Qualifiers: Jason Evans & Mark Roberson 7; Ben Garbett & Steve Broome 20; David Lloyd & Richard Guest 22; Stuart Cutler & Paul Waddington 22; Asa Cooper & Simon Walton 22; Adrian Paddock & Steve Watson 24; Lewis Kenyon & Paul Dobing 26; Steve Brookes & Dave Mawby 27; Simon Nickless & Steve Dudley 30; Craig Naylor & Dale Lynch 33; Dave Coulburn & Fred Lakin 34; Ian Fewtrell & Craig Dickinson 34; Glyn Bagley & Phil Cox 34; David Trafford & Stuart Bird 35; James Dennison & Peter Moore 35; Tony Cassidy & John Weedon 35; Neil Latham & Anthony Swindells 36; Dave Clawley & David Rose 37; Steve Fogel & Chris Harvey 39; Lauren Stevens & Phil Spry 39.

Colmic-Prostate Screening Fund Championship 2024 Qualifier, Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal (Wolverhampton AA Water), Wombourne, S. Staffs (44 fished). Lee Woodhouse (HanKat Superteam AS) 19-7-3 (bream and skimmers); Owen Westwood (Wolverhampton AA) 8-2-6; Rob Lloyd (Fatty's Baits & Tackle) 6-9-6; Johnny Benness (Goodyear AC) 5-10-4; John Garbett (Team Eclipse) 5-8-0; Tony Walsh (Drennan Leics. MVDE) 5-1-0. Qualifiers: Tony (Drennan Leics. MVDE); John Garbett (Team Eclipse); Lee Woodhouse (HanKat Superteam AS); Merv 'the Swerve' Rogers (Sensas Black Country); Brian Preece (Bridgnorth AS); Neil Turner (Bag'em/Maver Midlands); Johnny Benness (Goodyear AC); Darren Bolton (Sensas Black Country); Rob Lloyd (Fatty's Baits & Tackle); Owen Westwood (Wolverhampton AA).

Erewash Spring League, Round 5, Erewash Canal, Cotmanhay, Derbys. Sat. Andy Astle (Loughborough Soar MG) 9-4-0 (two tench plus perch on poled worm); Ben Sharratt (Cadence Superteam/Bait-Tech) 7-0-8; (Joint 3rd) Derek Jackson (3 Counties) 6-11-8; John Johnson (Notts. AA) 6-8-0; Nathan Noon (Stanton) 4-4-8; John Brockway (Maver Central MVDE) 3-13-0. League: John Johnson (Notts. AA) 28-4-0; Ben Sharratt (Cadence Superteam/Bait-Tech) 24-6-0; Steve Posiak (Long Eaton Fed.) 23-0-0; Derek Jackson (3 Counties) 22-3-8.

HanKat Superteam AS Open, Stourbridge Canal, Old Strike Water/Moor Street Fryer Section, Brierley Hill, W. Mids. Sat (17 fished). Wayne Sharpe (Sensas Black Country) 10-10-2 (two roach-rudd hybrids for 3lb plus roach); Tony Bowen (HanKat Superteam AS) 10-3-11 (roach plus one skimmer); Lee Woodhouse (HanKat Superteam AS) 7-9-5 (mixed bag inc. one tench); Steve Worton (HanKat Superteam AS) 7-6-0 (two tench); Andy Curless (Drennan NW) 4-12-4; Dean Webb (Sensas Black Country) 3-7-0.

Kennet & Avon Spring League, Round 1, Kennet & Avon Canal, (Melksham & Airsprungs Waters), Semington to Consortium, nr. Bradford-on-Avon, Wilts. Sun 7th Apr (68 fished). Dave Johnson (Garbolino Blackmore Vale Marine) 22-15-0 (approx. 80 roach on the whip, then pole at 8 and 10 metres with dead maggot and red worm over groundbait for skimmers); Liam Bradell (Preston Innovations Thatchers) 20-6-0 (skimmers on the pole on three lines with dead maggot over fishmeal groundbait); Dave Carey (Apollo Angling) 19-2-0; James Pitman (RIVE Homestores) 18-7-0; Paul Yar-row (Apollo Angling) 12-12-0; Dominic Allen (Bordon Angling 2) 11-1-0. Teams: Preston Innovations Thatchers 48; RIVE Homestores 46; Daiwa Dorking 45; Garbolino Blackmore Vale Gold 43; Apollo Angling 42; Drennan Bordon 1 40.

Port Sunlight AC, Shropshire Union Canal, Pretty Bridge Section, Chester. Ches. Sun 7th Apr. James Prinold 1K 610g (stamp-roach on poled pinkie); Phil McKeown 1K 260g; Phil Loughran OK 780g.

Sportsman AA Open, Walsall Canal (BCN), Moors Mill Lane Section, Tipton, W. Mids. Sat. Dave Arnold (Sportsman AA) 3-0-6; Dennis Sumner (Fatty's Baits & Tackle) 2-12-11; Tony Garrett (Sportsman AA) 2-0-8; Chris Taylor (Sportsman AA) 1-6-0.

Storey's Halesowen RBL, Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, Hinksford & Swindon, Dudley, W. Mids. Sun. Lawrie Mulheron 3-1-0 (skimmers and perch on poled maggot); Kevin Clark 1-11-0; Brian Smith 1-7-8; Sean Waite 1-6-0.

Towcester AC, Grand Union Canal, Cosgrove, Northants. Sun 7th Apr. Peter Fish 12-0-0; Dave Gibbins 4-12-0; Brian Ayliffe 2-12-0.

Wigan DAA Members Flyers, Leeds & Liverpool Canal, Parbold, W. Lancs. Wed (25 fished). Richard Yates (Matrix LTB) 5-4-0; Steve Wilson (Sensas NW) 5-0-4; John Edwards (Leigh) 4-13-8; Steve Mayo (Wigan) 4-10-0. Sat., Leeds & Liverpool Canal, Ring O' Bells PH Section, Lathom, nr. Ormskirk, Lancs. Sat (21 fished). Joe Farrell (Bait-Tech) 14-14-0; Alan Crook (Drennan NW) 13-12-0; Ant Lloyd (Liverpool AS) 12-6-8; George McHugh (Drennan NW) 11-14-0.

Wolverhampton AA Open, Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Acton Trussell, nr. Penkridge, Staffs. Wed (9 fished). Johnny Benness (Goodyear AC) 5-1-0; Steve Broome (Maver Midlands) 2-14-13; Steve Dudley (Bag'em/ Maver Midlands) 2-6-8; Barry Williams (Fatty's Baits & Tackle) 2-6-0; Kev Jones 2-3-0; Lee Richards (Wolverhampton AA) 2-2-10.

Wolverhampton Over 60's Club Open, Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, Stafford Boat Club Section, Stafford, Staffs. Wed (11 fished). Colin Tillett (CT Paper Cannock) 1-11-13 (a 1lb 8oz perch plus a few roach on poled worm); Mick Westwood (Norton Canes) 1-8-5 (a few roach plus a 10oz perch); Alan Round (Sensas Lifestyle MG) 1-4-5 (50 mainly little roach on poled bread punch); Dave Holbrook (Team Eclipse) 0-15-0 (a few roach); Joe Athersmith (Bridgtown Social AC) 0-8-11; Bob Boothby (Bridgnorth Social AC) 0-5-12.



Canal & River Trust Stillwaters

Blackfords Progressive Association Match, Calf Heath Reservoir, nr. Gailey, Staffs. Sat. Mark Griffin (Stoke-on-Trent) 66-13-0; Nev Bailey Snr. (Blackfords) 39-9-0; Pete Jones (Angling Direct) 37-11-0; John Burns (Blackfords) 35-5-0. (all bream to feeder weights).

Blythe Waters Open, Solihull, W. Mids. Wed (12 fished). Phill Hunt 33-5-0; Martin Woolley 32-12-0; Mark Daley 13-4-0.

Embryo Kiveton Waters, Sheffield, S. Yorks. Wed., Open, Rose's Lake. Raymond Harris 63-7-0; Mark Bexton 31-6-0; Geoff Mawby 29-2-0. Thurs., Afternoon Open, Rose's Lake. Martin Watson 125-12-0; Roy Butterfield 82-6-0; Nicholas Brocklebank 67-9-0. Sat., Open, Eve's Lake. Will Shepard 53-2-0; Sean Sheldon 52-3-0; Callum Fox 51-4-0.

Embryo Kiveton Waters Spring League, Final Round, Sheffield, S. Yorks. Sun 7th Apr., Eve's and Rose's Lakes. Eve's Lake: Nigel Shipman 132-1-0; Mark Bexton 126-6-0; Brett Chapman 112-5-0. Rose's Lake: Carl Brown 92-15-0; Ryan Wilson 86-2-0; Glyn Ball 82-11-0. League winner: Ryan Wilson.

Embryo Kiveton Waters Tuesday Bomb & Feeder Open, Sheffield, S. Yorks. Tues., Eve's Lake. Paul Walker 66-10-0; Antony Sherwood 63-5-0; Andrew Havenhand 54-0-0.

Wave Catering Open, Earlswood Lakes, Solihull, W. Mids. Sat., Windmill 'Yachter' Lake (16 fished). Mark Bissett (Earlswood) 29-0-0; Dave Wallace (Gloucester) 18-12-0; Dave Amos (Gloucester) 14-2-0; Baz Cheese (Earlswood) 11-12-0. (all bream to feeder weights).

Stillwaters

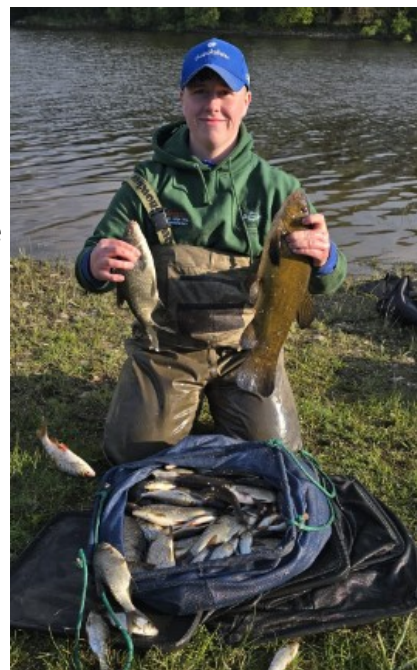
Castle AC Pairs, Canons, Northants. Sun 7th Apr. Dave White & Dick Cullen 16-4-0; Ron Snaith & Andy Franklin 13-5-0; Pete Upton & Brian Clarke 11-5-0.

Hodnet AC, Ryley's Pools, Goldstone, Shrops. Sun. Josh Williams 21-8-0; Kevan Podmore 11-6-0; Colin Roberts 5-5-0; Bob Parrish 4-6-8; Brian Pugh 4-5-8; Steve Neale 4-5-0.

Inniscarra Lake Open, County Cork, Ireland. Sat. J.P. Molloy 14K 800g; Trev Platt 13K 690g; Richard Pratt 12K 770g; Paul Leese 12K 140g; Dale Malpas 11K 970g; Steve Thorpe 10K 830g.

Long Eaton Fed., Brewery Ponds, Shardlow, Derbys. Wed. Ivan Carrier (Long Eaton Fed.) 3-8-0 (a carp on poled maggot); Rob Wright (Long Eaton Fed.) 1-13-8; Alan Wright (Long Eaton Fed.) 1-8-0; Chris Wright (Dynamite Derby Angling Federation) 0-13-8; (Joint 5th) Bill Varney (Long Eaton Fed.) 0-12-0; Pete Allwood (Long Eaton Fed.) 0-12-0. Pairs winners: Ivan Carrier & Alec Whitmore 3-8-0.

Patshull Park Fishery Open, The Great Lake, Pattingham, Staffs. Sun., Shallows Section (20 fished). Geoff Brierley (KDAA) 62-13-0; Rob Brennan (Garbolino) 48-5-0; Rich Lawson (Vespe) 28-3-0; Paul Bucknell (Little Dawley AC) 27-3-0. (all bream to feeder weights).



Commercials

Angling Trust Fish 'O' Mania 2024 Qualifier, Drennan Lindholme Lakes, Doncaster, S. Yorks. Sat (120 fished). Adam Playford 227-15-0; Charlie Law 207-2-0; Brad Lucas 180-6-0; Mathew Higgins 176-0-0; Lee Marshall 163-3-0; Ben Hardcastle 152-13-0. Qualifier: Adam Playford.

Bateman Vine AC, Kingsnordley Fisheries, Bridgnorth, Shrops. Sun 7th Apr., Willow Pool. S. Checkitts 18-6-0; R. Ashmore 16-7-0; N. Gater 15-2-0; M. Ashmore 13-6-0.

Blundell Fishery, Rixton, Ches. Sat., Open, Trio, Pine, East, West & Ash Lakes. Karl Webster (Matrix LTB) 226-13-0 (F1s to 7lb on poled maggot shallow); Andy Musgrove (Edgeley Sports) 179-12-0 (carp to 8lb on poled maggot shallow); Darren Picton (Leigh Tackle & Bait) 99-5-0.

Bradshaw Hall Fisheries, Bolton, Gtr. Manchester. Sat., Open, Lake 8. Martin Leach 106-13-0; Sam Baker 100-5-0; Gareth Gibbons 88-7-0.

Brookside Fisheries, Warrington, Ches. Sat., Open, Snake Lakes 1 & 2 (13 fished). Nick Butterworth 75-14-0; Stuart Conroy 62-14-0; Jonathan Burns 56-8-0.

Castle Ashby Opens, Grendon, Northants. Sat 6th Apr., Grendon Lake. Frank Pizzimenti 42-10-0; Mark Haycock 33-9-0; Tony Granfield 32-4-0. Sun 7th Apr., Grendon Lake. Richard Dunkley 41-7-0; Courtney Hawlett 34-0-0; Mike Wadham 23-13-0.

Cotton Outcasts AC, Decoy Lakes, Whittlesey, Cambs. Sun 7th Apr., Horseshoe Lake. Steve Johnson 99-4-0; Alan Barnes 89-13-0; Lee Bruce 54-15-0.

Glebe AC, Green Farm Fishery, Weedon Lois, Northants. Sun 7th Apr. Paul Jackson 21-7-0; Paul Scrivener 20-15-0; Kenny Andrews 19-14-0.

Hawkesbury Hall Farm, Bedworth, Warks. Sun., Open, Match Pool (12 fished). Richard Wells (Leicester) 98-6-0 (carp to 10lb on poled corn); Ian Shirley (Hawkesbury) 80-2-0 (bream to 4lb, carp to 6lb plus a few roach to 6oz on poled pellet); John Kidd (Hawkesbury) 67-14-0 (carp to 10lb on poled pellet and corn).

High Heyes Farm Fishery (The Catteries) Open, Chorley, Lancs. Sat (8 fished). Danny Lynch 78-12-0; Alix Kirwan 75-8-0; Martin Liptrot 67-8-0.

Lingmere Fishery Open, Moreton, The Wirral, Merseyside. Sat. J. Howson 159-12-0; A. Dewhurst 144-2-0; S. Boyd 114-8-0.

MAP Marston Fields Fishery, Sutton Coldfield, W. Mids. Sat., Open, Elm, Oak & Willow Pools (11 fished). Simon Richardson 112-12-0; Ryan Burgin 100-13-0; Andrew Jackson 85-7-0.

Maver Mega Match This 2024 Qualifier, Partridge Lakes Fishery, Warrington, Ches. Sat., Coveys & Willows Lakes (82 fished). Adrian Twist 129-11-0; Anthony Sheridan 125-6-0; Harry Leech 119-10-0; Jake Nightingale 110-11-0; Ash Davies 109-3-0. Qualifier: Adrian Twist.

Meadowlands Fishery Spring League, Round 3, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Warks. Sun 7th Apr., Lambsdown Lake & Warren Pool. Lee Taylor 230-10-0 (carp on the pole, down the edge); Warren Jennings 198-0-0 (carp on the bomb, then pole down the edge); Mark Hawthorne 180-9-0; Ryan James MacDonald 167-12-0. League: John Nicholls 7; (Joint 2nd) Warren Jennings 10; Paul Fox 10.

Weston Pools, Oswestry, Shrops. Sat., Open, Stretton Pool. Allan Hughes 155-0-0; Richie O'Connor 132-14-0; Giles Cochrane 123-4-0; Steve Halliwell 107-4-0. Sat., Open, Canal Pool. Andy Amos 134-5-0; Lee Griffiths 125-6-0; Kevin Roderick 108-1-0; Alan Green 103-2-0. Sat., Open, Belvedere Pool. Shaun Yale 104-5-0; Damon Massey 85-15-0; Paul Reynolds 84-9-0.

Nisa Feeders Open, Makins Fishery, Bramcote, Nuneaton, Warks. Wed., Phase One – Lake Two. Andy Findlay (Preston Innovations/Sonubaits) 126-15-0 (big carp on the Method feeder); Kevin Sims (Leicester) 84-4-0 (decent carp on the 16 metre pole with hard pellets); John Adamson (Nisa Feeders) 67-0-0 (carp and bream on the Method feeder towards the island); (Joint 4th) Martyn Carpenter 64-14-0; John Lack (Northampton) 64-14-0; Gaz Kitch (Wykin Fishing Club) 62-12-0.

Packington Somers Fisheries, Meriden, W. Mids. Wed., Solihull Angling Centre Open, Big Geary's Pool (17 fished). Dave Roberts 81-12-0 (carp on poled pellet); Nick Jukes 74-4-0 (carp and skimmers on poled corn); Paul Truman 70-12-0 (carp on poled pellet); John Burchell 54-13-0 (carp on bomb and pellet). Sat., Open, Big Geary's Pool. Dave Childs 145-8-0 (carp and skimmers on the bomb/pole; both with pellet); Ian Keywood 102-4-0 (carp on bomb and pellet); Paul Truman 73-0-0 (carp on poled pellet); Paul Terry 63-2-0 (carp on the Method feeder). Sun., Open, Molands Mere Pool (30 fished). Andy Findlay 167-3-0 (carp and F1s on Method feeder); Barry Byrd 135-5-0 (carp and F1s on Method feeder); Jon Newton 127-9-0 (carp and F1s on pellet waggler); Mark Russell 96-9-0 (carp and F1s on the pole with worm and maggots).

Preston Innovations Boldings Pools, Bridgnorth, Shrops. Mon., Over 60's Open, Sycamore Pool. Bill Hill (Preston Innovations Boldings) 132-8-0; Steve Owen (Monkhall) 115-7-0; Mick Jamieson (Preston Innovations Boldings) 104-7-0; Terry Edwards (Pool Hayes) 97-13-0. Wed., Open, Willows Pool. Adam Jones (Maver Elite) 101-13-0; Gareth Unwin (Big C) 71-8-0; Les Willey (Walsall) 65-10-0; Steve Woodhall (Preston Innovations Boldings) 63-1-0. Thurs., Over 60's Open, Sycamore Pool. Clive Wynn (Weston Pools) 111-1-0; Clive Wright (Preston Innovations Boldings) 107-8-0; Bill Hill (Preston Innovations Boldings) 90-2-0. Sat., Oswestrians AC, Chestnut Pool. Gary Gollins 102-5-0; Richie Woodhall 81-5-0; Gary Hick 78-4-0; Terry Edwards 63-2-0; Steve Woodhall 60-3-0; Paul Hemming 56-3-0. Sun., Open, Willows & Larch Pools. Gaz Willey (Walsall) 220-3-0; Simon Christian (Preston Innovations Boldings) 186-6-0; Mark Rathbone (St. Francis) 135-7-0; Steve Woodhall (Preston Innovations Boldings) 120-4-0. Sun., Shrewsbury AC, Chestnut Pool. Nathan Spain 162-0-0; Jamie Rhoden 82-10-0; Johnny Harris 75-14-0; Lloyd Smith 61-12-0; Mark Harris 61-5-0.

South Liverpool AC, Firwood Fisheries, Skelmersdale, Lancs. Sat. J. Neilson 142-7-0; E. McKenna 140-8-0; V. Roberts 133-4-0.

Spilsby AA, Toad Hall Fishery, Candlesby, Spilsby, Lincs. Wed. Neil Williams 35-8-0; Derek Skinner 29-9-0; Richard Chadburn 22-2-0.

Splinters AC, Peatling Pools, Peatling Parva, Lutterworth, Leics. Wed 3rd Apr., Plough & Harrow Pools. Eddie Kelly 113-0-0; Kev Elliott 84-7-0; Tom Griffiths 66-2-0. Sun 7th Apr. Dave Griffiths 171-11-0; Pat Neale 131-2-0; Trev Griffiths 103-6-0.

Stoppo's Fishery Silvers Opens, Coton-in-the-Elms, Derbys. Sun 7th Apr. Clive Lloyd 20-12-0 (crucians and skimmers on casters); Neil Skinner 20-4-0 (crucians, skimmers and roach); Paul Dennis 16-7-0 (mixed bag); John Harper 13-7-0. Wed. Clive Lloyd 18-5-0 (skimmers and roach at 11 metres); Ian Saiger 17-12-0 (skimmers and roach on casters); John Harper 15-4-0 (skimmers and roach); Pete Madeley 10-12-0.

Stoppo's Fishery Spring League, Round 3, Coton-in-the-Elms, Derbys. Sat (24 fished). Clive Lloyd 19-5-0; Jason Cunningham (Cadence Superteam/Bait-Tech) 13-7-0; Wayne Northall 11-4-0; Steve Tivey 9-2-0 (no league placings supplied).

The Cunneries Fishery, Eccleston, Chorley, Lancs. Sat., Open, Kestrel Lake. Martin Jennings 76-15-0; Patrick Dolan 73-0-0; Geoff Farnworth 62-3-0.

The Oaks Lakes Spring Series, Round 2, Sessay, N. Yorks. Sat., Cedar Lake. Chris Hall 111-5-0; Eddie Pearson 97-0-0; Steve Luck 96-3-0. (no league placings supplied).

The Old Hough Coarse Fishery Golden Pot 2024 Qualifier, Middlewich, Ches. Sat., Lucky Dip, Prospect, Lower Benbo & Boulders Pools. Mark Halliwell 112-5-0; Adam Martin 96-3-0; Keith Owen 87-11-0; Eric Thomas 78-4-0; Connor Edwards 77-14-0; Jez Goldthorpe 74-1-0. Qualifiers: Mark Halliwell; Adam Martin.

Viaduct Fishery, Somerton, Somerset. Sat., Open, Campbell Lake (21 fished). Martin Preston 212-14-0; Mark Wynne 148-14-0; Steve Denmead 123-1-0; Nigel Easton 118-9-0. Silvers: Stu White 81-2-0; Gabe Skarba 72-2-0; Nigel Easton 67-7-0; Paul Greenwood 48-14-0.

Wayne's Fishing Tuesday Nighter, Meadowlands Fishery, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Warks. Tues Eve., Warren Pool. Jon Arthur 94-0-0; Wayne Sharman 75-8-0; Dave Roberts 75-6-0; Gary Cook 72-14-0.

DRENNAN

SENIOR PURCHASING & LOGISTICS VACANCY

Due to retirement we have a vacancy in Purchasing & Logistics Management to join the team in our Oxford head office, purchasing internationally through established sources of supply.

There's an opportunity to shadow the current manager who has been with our company for 22 years. We can offer a wide variety of work, a large degree of autonomy and would hope to improve on current salary.

The role would ideally suit an experienced commercial purchaser. An interest in angling would add an extra dimension but is not essential!

Please apply with brief CV to recruitment@drennantackle.com



Paul Elt made his annual trip over to Walthamstow Res in search of some of the big bream that take up residence on the complex as it's prime time for a big bream.

On his arrival, he noticed it was extremely busy and with warnings of high winds from an incoming storm, his plans of fishing with a big wind behind him were scrapped due to the number of carp anglers having the same idea.

With white horse waves pushing down the res and gusts of 40-50 mph winds, it made conditions very tricky to deal with so Paul opted for the heaviest open end feeders he had, and fished these at medium range just to ensure maximum accuracy with baiting could be achieved but even that test Paul to his limits at times.

At the business end, Paul went with a 10lb Syncro Loaded mainline, with a helicopter set up presenting a 10mm boilie topped with a few worms fished over a dozen spombs of groundbait and pellets. The first take came just an hour into the session and resulted in his biggest from the venue to date with this lovely 13lb 7oz bream, this fish ended up being the only one of the session. It seemed after landing the fish, the res completely switched off with every other bream angler blanking for the rest of the day from what he'd heard.



**Cup Awards
For April 2014**



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 12th year running starting in June.

Matches start on Sunday June 16th 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 21st and Sunday 22nd of September with a prize pot of over £40,000, based on maximum ticket sales.

Tickets will be available from **Tuesday 19th 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 16th June – WARWICKSHIRE AVON, EVESHAM (60)

Wednesday 19th June – RIVER TRENT, NEWARK (80)

Saturday 22nd June – RIVER CALDER, Mirfield (60)

Sunday 23rd June – RIVER NENE, OUNDLE (60)

Wednesday 26th June – RIVER SEVERN, BEWDLEY (60)

Saturday 29th June – RIVER TRENT, CAYTHORPE (60)

Sunday 30th June – RIVER MEDWAY, BARMING (40)

Wednesday 3rd July – RIVER TRENT, CUTTLE BROOK, INGLEBY (60)

Sunday 7th July – WARWICKSHIRE AVON, STRATFORD (60)

Saturday 13th July – RIVER SEVERN, BRIDGNORTH (60)

Sunday 14th July – RIVER SOAR, SUTTON (60)

Wednesday 17th July – RIVER TRENT, COLLINGHAM (60)

Saturday 20th July – RIVER TRENT, BURTON JOYCE (80)

Sunday 21st July – DORSET STOUR, STURMINSTER NEWTON (60)

Wednesday 24th July – RIVER TRENT, NEWARK (80)

Saturday 27th July – RIVER DON, SPOTBOROUGH (60)

Sunday 28th July – WARWICKSHIRE AVON, STRATFORD (60)

Saturday 3rd August – RIVER THAMES, CLANFIELD (60)

Sunday 11th August – RIVER TRENT, COLLINGHAM (60)

Saturday 17th August – RIVER TRENT, BURTON JOYCE (80)

Sunday 18th August – RIVER TRENT, TRENT LOCK (60)

Wednesday 21st August – TIDAL TRENT (80)

Friday 23rd August – TIDAL TRENT (60)

Wednesday 28th August – RIVER TRENT, BURTON ON TRENT (60)

Wednesday 4th September – RIVER THAMES, CLANFIELD (60)

Saturday 7th September – BRISTOL AVON, SWINFORD CRANE (40)

Sunday 8th September – RIVER THAMES, ABINGDON AREA (60)



PRACTICE OPEN MATCH

The practice open match will take place on Saturday 14th September 2024 on the River Trent, Burton Joyce (up to 84 pegs)

Round 1: Opens 10.00am Tuesday 19th March 2024 & closes at 23.59 on Sunday 31st March 2024. Maximum of 1 ticket per angler in this round

Round 2 Opens 10.00am on Tuesday 2nd 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 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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