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Hello and welcome to the April edition of the Freshwater Informer

iver anglers have packed away their rods and tackle boxes as the traditional season ended on 15th March. Many more anglers will be preparing in readiness for Easter weekend which, in more recent times, has marked the start of a new fishing year on lakes and ponds across the southeast. The relative merits of the 'traditional' close season (15th March - 15th June) that still applies to rivers is always hotly contested by people on both sides of the argument. Many will say that it is an outmoded and unnecessary enforced break, no longer relevant and not fit for purpose. Others that it still has a place and is an important rest for both fish and riverbank flora and fauna.

I stand conflicted. On the one hand there is no doubt that our rivers and fish stocks are under more pressure than ever. Whether from pollution, predation, or illegal fishing and that legitimate anglers are very much the guardians of such waterways and should be allowed year round access. Especially when other river users face no such restrictions and arguably have a far bigger and more detrimental impact than the fishing fraternity.

On the other, to abandon tradition is to loose much of the ethos of angling. The planning, preparation and anticipation of a new season that ultimately comes to fruition on June 16th. Maybe, in years to come, there will be some comprise found where, much like responsible clubs, syndicates and day ticket fisheries, rivers could be shut for a shorter, but more appropriate time around spawning. Its unlikely, but we live in hope...

The last month has seen some spectacular catches, whether it's anglers bagging a last



gasp pike or chub from a river or dedicated carp anglers getting the jump on the more 'fair weather' fishers (of which I'm one!) by braving the cold conditions and taking advantage of early feeding spells as fisheries splutter into life. Many of their results are reproduced in this months issue along with contributions from our regular writers. Bob Rolph looks back at the origins of winter carp fishing. Warren White and Fishing For Schools write of the importance of their work with youngsters. Andy Lush sets himself a challenge that brings his ability down to that of us mere mortals and Bob Morris climbs on his political soapbox with some very important and timely observations.

Hopefully, by next month the miserable winter that we have all had to endure will be no more than a dim and distant memory and spring will well and truly have sprung! Tight lines, Alex Coutts and Lee Nicoll



email: thefreshwaterinformer@gmail.com

Advertising - Lee 0787 3203998

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Success in the snow for Graham

Of all the various angling disciplines, carp fishing is perhaps the most target driven. Whether chasing your first double, twenty or thirty pounder. A surface caught best or a carp from a river, there is a seemingly endless list of challenges. One target that relatively few anglers ever get to achieve is that of a snow caught carp. As you can see from the photographs, that number was added to directly when Tricklebrook Fishery bailiff Graham Beadle caught this immaculate upper double mirror carp whilst the fishery was cloaked in an unseasonably late blanket of snow.





Sub zero temperatures and a decided lack of fish made for an uncomfortable and chilly start to Graham's session but all of that was instantly forgotten when his manilla wafter hookbait, fished on a spinner rig, with a tutti frutti topper (does that make it a snowman rig...??) was picked up by the fish.

After a steady fight, Graham was able to net the mirror. His first snow caught carp in 50 years of angling and a fantastic addition to his photo album.





New PB For Jason

Night time temperatures of -2 degrees and reports of slow fishing didn't deter Jason Boorer when he visited Prairie Lake at Elphicks.

Staying vigilant, despite the freezing temperatures, he noticed some bubbles fizzing up away from his baited spot. Casting a single Hulk boilie, from Sussex Bait Developments, topped with white corn towards the disturbance soon resulted in a take from this superb 36lbs 8ozs ghost carp.

After a fraught battle, which included the fish wiping out Jason's other rods and requiring the help of a mate to free the lines, he was able to net the monstrous ghostie which smashed his **PB** by over 5lbs.





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- 5. ALL FISH MUST BE RETURNED TO THE WATER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING CAPTURE. NO STANDING. FISH MUST BE HELD LOW OVER A MAT/CRADLE FOR PHOTOGRAPHS
- 6. MINIMUM 15LB LINE AND NO BRAIDED MAIN LINE
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Cover Story...

Charlie Clark banks the biggest brace of the year

Like many heavily pressured carp venues, Pullens Lake on the Elphicks Fishery Complex has a reputation for being a tough nut to crack. However, with some thought and careful application, the results can be nothing short of spectacular when you get it right. This month's cover star Charlie Clark had one such session, landing two carp for a combined weight of over 100lbs. Charlie takes up the story of what is the largest brace of carp landed this year and one of the biggest of all time...



"A group of five of us had booked the lake for 60hrs. Along with myself was my uncle, Paul Clark, as well as venue regulars Tim and Paul Carter and Glen Wood, all of whom have had some tremendous results at Elphicks over the years.

After a chat with the bailiff, who informed us that it was fishing very slow with only two fish caught in the previous week, we had a draw to determine swim choice. The first three decided to set up on the roadside bank, I came out fourth and opted to fish on the far side of the lake in an area that we refer to as the bay. Although a relatively small water, the fish can be very quick to move away from angling pressure and stack up in any undisturbed areas. My thinking was that the three anglers on the road bank would push any fish in front of them in my direction and give me a chance of a quick bite. Glen was last out the bag and took it one step further, setting up at the far end.

My swim had two obvious spots, a reed lined margin and the inside edge of a kidney shaped island. These can be somewhat of a double edged sword. On the one hand, because they stand out, most anglers will bait these spots and the carp are used to finding food there. On the other,



the carp are well aware that they are being fished for and will avoid them at the slightest hint of a rig being present. Because of this I dropped my third rod just a couple of rod lengths off the margin in a fairly nondescript area of water. The thinking is that anglers will often take multiple casts to get a bait 'just right' leaving the contents a number of pva bags dotted around the around the swim, away from the obvious spots. Replicating this but leaving the hookbait in situ, can be a great way of fooling even the most wary of carp.



I baited very lightly on all three spots. Half a handful of cell boilie crumb and sweetcorn over the margin and near range spit and a small pva bag on the island rod. All three rods were set up with ronnie rigs and baited with small northern special pop-ups. Keeping everything pinned down is an absolute must on these types of water and for that reason I use a fluorocarbon mainline and fish it slack enough that it droops between the rod eyes, with the bobbin on the floor.

The daylight hours passed without interruption and a heavy frost came in with the darkness. Hardly the best conditions for a bite! Yet at 2:30am my alarm screamed into life as a fish made a rapid exit from the short range spot. Any thoughts of the cold night air were soon forgotten as an unseen, and unstoppable force, surged out into open water. Your senses tend to be amplified at night but even so, I had no doubt that I was attached to a sizeable fish.



Slowly I turned the tide in my favour and eventually drew my prize over the waiting net. My Uncle, who had seen my headtorch from his swim, came around to help with the weighing and photos and we were both gobsmacked when the needle spun around to 45lbs 2ozs. A new PB by 5lbs. We did the pictures and returned the fish and then after much back slapping and numerous mugs of tea, Paul returned to his swim and left me with my thoughts. Nothing else happened and as dawn broke it was clear that the fish had moved to the road bank as throughout the day, one by one the alarms sounded on that side of the lake.

Still on cloud nine, I didn't mind the lack of action and was quite content to soak up the atmosphere. As the evening drew in I redid my rods hoping for a repeat performance of the first night. Unfortunately the hours of darkness passed without interruption but at first light the island rod was away. Another heavy, ponderous fight told me that this was another big fish but just as everything seemed to be under control the hook pulled barely two rod lengths from the net. Gutted! I trudged around to my Uncles swim to bemoan my luck and having seen events unfold from his vantage point, he already had the kettle on by the time I got there.

Tim and Paul Carter, as well as Glen, who between them had accounted for a thirty and three forties to 47lbs 2ozs, had to leave early and said there goodbyes as I sat drinking tea in my Uncles swim. Unbelievably just as they left, Uncle Paul was into a fish and landed an immaculate 34lbs 2ozs mirror soon after. His third fish of the session, the others weighing 33lbs 4ozs and 41lbs 6ozs. Clearly the fish had followed the same route as the previous day and were now gathering along the road bank.

This is where I am indebted to my Uncle Paul. With the others leaving and the road bank to himself, he could have been in for a grandstand finish but knowing that I'd lost a fish and was unlikely to get another chance from my swim he insisted that I bring my rods round and fish where the fish clearly were.

With renewed enthusiasm I soon had my bivvy packed away and set up next to Paul with just my rods, net and mat. The odd swirl and patch of bubbles gave away the presence of more fish as they moved into the area. I repeated the approach of the close in rod from my previous swim. Half a handful of boilie crumb and sweetcorn just off the marginal shelf. The only difference was that I tied up a German rig, incorporating a 20lb blend omc hooklink and a size 8 korda kamagura hook. Bait wise I opted for a Sticky Baits wafter, trimmed down to be as inconspicuous as possible. This was then lowered onto the spot with a 4oz lead on a clip, with the mainline left as slack as possible. My rods were only a few metres from my Uncles swim and we were sat in his bivvy to shelter from the biting wind when my alarm went into overdrive.

In seconds I was on the rod and bent into what I can only describe as an unmovable weight. It was as if someone had hooked a sack of cement onto my line. A sack of cement that was clinging to the lakebed and was now powering off on an unstoppable run. I prefer to fish off of the reel rather than the clutch when playing big fish and time and time again I was forced to backwind as the fish made its bid for freedom.

The minutes ticked by and the anticipation rose, as we still hadn't seen this monster of the depths. No amount of pressure could

persuade the fish to come up in the water. Eventually, after about 20 minutes, a massive vortex swirled at the front of the swim, as the fish chugged around under the rod tip, followed by the top lobe of huge tail breaking the surface. With one last effort I was able to bring the fish to the surface for Paul to net.

It was clearly one of the lakes true giants so to avoid any confusion we called Phil the bailiff to assist with the weighing. Even with both of us lifting the pole through the scales, it still took a considerable amount of effort to raise the fish off the mat and when Phil Read out a weight of 57lbs 8ozs you could of knocked me over with a feather!

Two PB fish for a combined weight of 102lbs 10ozs and to be able to share it with my Uncle Paul who has been a constant in my angling career, right back to tiddler bashing on farm ponds, was the best feeling of all."





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Cold water common for Carl

The weather has been far from kind of late. A continual cycle of cold spells, bitter winds, snow and rain has kept many an angler sheltering indoors. But the weather wasn't bad enough to deter Carl Milton from venturing to Wylands Fishery for a day session on the complexes New Specimen Lake.

Location is key in cold water conditions and after a thorough look around the lake, Carl spotted some subtle signs of fish activity.

A well placed cast saw Carl bend into a fish less than 30 minutes later as this 28lbs 12ozs dark coloured common found his Steamies TNT pop-up too good to resist. Carl fished a spinner rig, constructed from OMC tackle, to land the scale perfect carp after a dour fight.





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A•**B**•**C** (Anything But Carp)

There is no getting away from the fact that carp fishing dominates today's stillwater angling, and as good as that is, it's not for everyone. In fact there is a



growing interest amongst many anglers to actively avoid carp and instead go in search of specimen fish of other species that inhabit our lakes and ponds. One such venue where this is possible is Furnace Brook, nr Cowbeech, where, although carp are present, there is a plethora of other species to provide any angler with true mixed fishing experience.

One angler that has been making the most of this style of angling is Garry Willis. On a recent visit, Garry enjoyed tremendous sport. Fishing 6lb line, a simple 1oz running leger, a pva bag of maggots and alternating between worm, maggot and prawn on a size 12 hook, he managed to catch a variety of species including some real specimens, consisting of tench, bream, roach, perch and of course, just to keep things interesting, the occasional carp.











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FRESHWATER

April 2023

Second PB in a month for Freddy!



Readers will remember that we featured Freddy Beaney in last month's edition with a fantastic new personal best Pike of 14lbs 12ozs.

The ink barely had time to dry before Freddy was in touch to report not only had he broken his PB again but had also landed his first twenty pounder. A memorable milestone in any pike anglers journey, even more so when they are caught from a river and as well marked as this impressive 20lbs 8ozs fish.

An early morning start proved to be the key to Freddy's success and in his own words it "was well worth the effort". We certainly agree.

FRESHWATER **IFORMI**



Another river twenty...



Another angler who is celebrating is Kenny Johnson, who bought a whole new meaning to the term 'Catching a River Twenty' during his latest pike fishing trip to the River Cray. The fantastic specimen was hooked on a korum squirm and

was definitely his catch of the day!





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BAIT AVAILABILITY DEPENDENT ON TIDE AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

To fish Snipe Lake, Westlake or Daughters Lake there are certain tackle requirements in force. See website for details. As from Spring 2023 all anglers on Westlake will be required to have a dedicated Catfish mat. Well, we have had to batton down the hatches and told on tight as we have suffered again from Mother Nature. This time she decided to treat us with winds of over 50mph so we have had to spend a week picking up the pieces. By pieces I mean thousands of branches blown into the lakes, car parks and roads and we have had to deal with some large trees that were downed too. As of writing this report we have had to shut one bank on Snipe Lake due to a big tree down whilst we deal with it. Sadly it has knocked our winter maintenance back yet again but by the time you are reading this we should be back to some sort of normality. The lakes and ponds are finally showing signs that spring is here with fish being banked, insects starting to show themselves and we've even seen the first bumblebee of the year this week.

Snipe Lake has been slow but there have been a few banked, George Gibbs banked an 18lbs mirror, Steve Gladwin had 2 commons at 20lbs and 23lbs, Ian York managed to bank a small common and a mirror of 23lbs 8ozs while Gavin Bryant banked 2 of the new stockies at 16lbs 10ozs and 18lb and Phil Clegg put an end to a tough run by banking a 26lbs 12ozs common and a 22lbs common and Al Randall banked his first fish of the year which was a 24lbs common. Westlake has not seen too many anglers out as yet but there have been a few cats banked so its looking like the cats are waking up. Josh Bashford had a decent 24 hours when he banked 2 catfish at 49lbs and

55lbs while **Russell Scrace** banked what we believe to be the big one but sadly his scales only went to 65lbs and the cat bottomed them out but from comparing the pics of the lake record and Russell's catch it does look like the same fish. Russell learnt a valuable lesson which is if you are fishing for cats over 80lbs then ensure the scales are up to it. Jeff's Lake has been producing some of the new carp we recently stocked as well as bream and silvers. Daughters Lake has woken up fully yet but Henry Simmonds banked a 15lbs common, Peter Clarke had a 16lbs

mirror and Chris Pinnell had a new PB when he banked a 16lbs common. Eden Pond has seen the tench start to react to the longer daylight and slightly warmer water and have been caught well with Callum Hutchins banking 19 tench, 4 bream, 3 commons and 4 perch to 2lbs and Matt White banking 9 tench to 3lbs 12ozs, 4 perch and one F1. Maze Lake has been quiet for day anglers but the ones that have fished it have banked bream, F1's and silvers. Majors Lake has seen the most action of late with a mix of carp, bream and pike banked. Dan Gregory banked a small common, 2 mirrors at 10lbs and 15lbs, his first ever pike at 9lbs and then another pike at 19lbs 13ozs, Billy Snape end a bad run when he banked a ghostie and a common which were both low doubles, Paul and Claire

Owen had a carp each on a day session, Norman Epps banked a 12lbs 8ozs pike, Nick Boyt had a low double common and 2 bream, Tom Fedczuk had a 9lbs 8ozs mirror and a 4lb tench while his buddy Toby Collister banked an 11lbs common and a 17lbs ghostie, George Roberts and Kieran Jeffreys had a take at the same time which resulted in a 16lbs ghostie and an 11lbs mirror, Terry Edwards had 2 decent bream, a 9lbs 12ozs mirror and 2 commons of 14lbs 10ozs and 15lbs 2ozs and Colin Humm had a mirror of 18lbs 10ozs while Nick Bevis banked

a 11lbs 7ozs mirror, a 15lbs 11ozs common and a 16lbs 1oz ghostie.





lan York - 23lbs 8ozs Snipe Lake







Snipe Lake - fallen tree





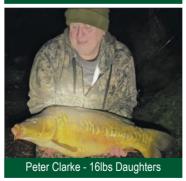
Colin Humm - 18lbs 10ozs Majors

Henry Symmonds - 15lbs Daughters



Norman Epps - 12lbs 7ozs Majors





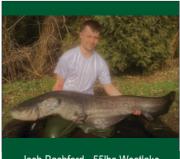


Russell Scrace 65lbs+PB Bottomed out Scales



Finley - Jeff's Lake New Stockie Karl Wallis - Jeff's Lake New Stockie





Josh Bashford - 55lbs Westlake





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Kevin Durham at Coombewood Fishery



Korum backed angling coach Kevin Durham spends a lot of his time working with young anglers at Coombewood Fishery as part of the Fishing For Schools initiative, which prides itself on encouraging and supporting youngsters from all backgrounds into the sport.

Occasionally though, he finds the time to fish for himself and when he does his ability is clear to see as these two twenty pound pike from a North Kent gravel pit show

Both fish were taken at long range using legered deadbait tactics, using a combination of whole Herring and mini Mackerel baits.



Beachborough Brace

Pablo from Bankbeasts and member Louise with a brace of twenties a 25lbs common and a 24lbs 8ozs mirror caught within half hour of each other. The lakes at Beachborough provided the duo with two of its older residents, caught on a chod and a Ronnie rig over a bed of Active Bait Solutions mc nut, with pop ups being the hookbait of choice.





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April 2023

Greenacres Farm Fishery Biddenden, Kent

Speci 1 Fishing is steady going now its getting, water levels are on the rise with fish showing over small baited areas using your chosen choice of hook bait. Preferred hookbaits seem to be sticky krill or mainline cell boilie.

Speci 2 Robin red halibut pellets and luncheon meat seem to be the best

baits at the minute for catfish which are mainly getting caught late afternoons and through the night to early mornings. Carp can be caught on small baited areas close to the islands or margins or with solid pva bags casting to showing fish.

Heron Still fishing really well on float or quiver tactics for a mixed bag of fish. Preferred hookbaits seem to be maggots and luncheon meat over a bed of pellet or groundbait.



Shirkoak

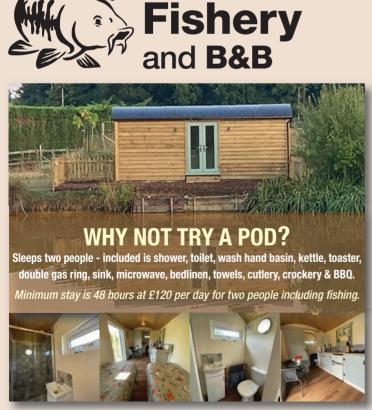
Kingfisher This is a brilliant lake if you are starting up fishing for the first time as it is full of fish and keeps you busy all day. This lake can also be booked out for matches if you give us a call on: 07933 934942

Bluebell A very unique lake tucked out the way, this lake holds some lovely tench to 6lb and carp to 10lb and is very peaceful. A large bag of fish can be caught from this lake at certain times of the year so be prepared.





Dip all nets, slings, unhooking mats and cradles before entering any lakes or you will be asked to leave. No takeaways after 6pm. No Bins on site so take all rubbish home including your fag butts. Please read all the rules for each lake www.greenacresfarmfishery.co.uk No keepnets unless authorised by a member of staff. Single hooks when pike fishing 'No Trebles'.





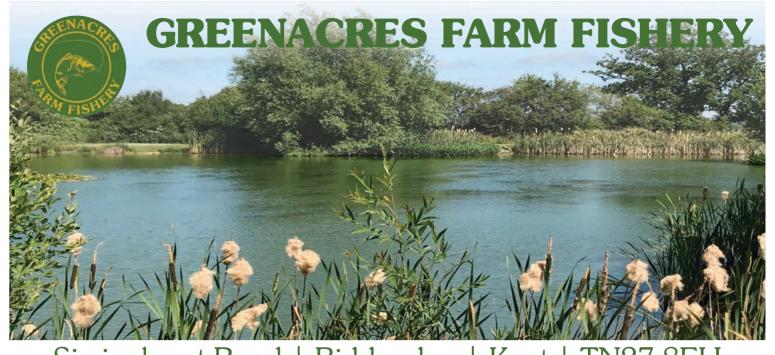
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Sissinghurst Road | Biddenden | Kent | TN27 8EH

Located on the Weald of Kent in Biddenden we offer syndicate quality lakes for all. There is one specimen lake for carp up to 30lbs+, one specimen predator lake for carp to 27lbs+, catfish to 60lbs+ and pike, one match lake with twenty-two purpose built swims, one coarse lake and finally a tench/family pond. Facilities include a club house with toilets, shower, wet room and kitchen facilities.

This beautiful setting needs to be visited and enjoyed!

Prices start at £10 per session on the coarse lakes, £15 for the specimen lakes rising to £25 for a 24 hour ticket (£5 extra for a third rod).

Gates open at 7am and close at 7pm

SENIOR DAY TICKETS ON OUR COARSE LAKES HERON AND BLUEBELL ARE AVAILABLE FOR £5 MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY

To book, please call or text us on **07933 934942** or visit our website www.greenacresfarmfishery.co.uk Email: greenacresfarmfishery@gmail.com



Claygate Lakes Claygate, Marden, Kent



the weather has started to warm up, and the fish have woken up.



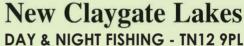
Lake Amy Regulars Matt and Brad along with his dad Edd, have had a few out on maggot ring, also yellow pop ups. Whilst writing a few carp have been taken off the top. Don't

forget to try your margin at night, as they do come in close. Remember to book on as we limit anglers at the weekends.

Lake Eva Red punch along with corn working even some meat is worth a try. Lake Sophie Fish coming out down the middle to maggot and chopped worms, Don't forget to put some ground bait out.

Please have the correct money for your payment, you can also pay via bank





For all match and pleasure bookings and enquiries please ring Dave **07770 513448 NIGHT FISHING ON ALL LAKES**





LAKE AMY - Carp to upper 30s





LAKE EVA match/pleasure - Carp 27lb+ Tench 11lb+ Chub 5lb+ Barbel 6lb+ Perch 5lb+ Bream and other silvers





LAKE SOPHIE match/pleasure - Carp 16lb+ Tench 8lb+ Chub 5lb+ Barbel 4lb+ Perch 3lb+ Bream 11lb+ Roach 2lb+ Skimmer Bream and other silvers

www.newclaygatelakes.co.uk



Visit Sandwich Lakes in 2023

Tel: 07936 409912

Sandwich Coarse Fishery

Sandwich Lakes is a delightful day ticket fishery in East Kent situated near to the Royal Cinque Port town of Sandwich.

Set in a beautiful countryside location, the venue caters for all anglers from the specialist carp angler to beginners.

Our unrivalled facilities include:

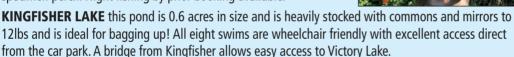
A waterside cafe serving hot and cold food and drinks Ladies and gents toilets • Plenty of free parking On site tackle shop for bait and tackle • Rod hire

We can offer our visitors six coarse fishing lakes containing a variety of fish from silver fish to specimen carp. Matches and fishing lessons can be arranged by contacting our Fishery Manager Kevin Killeen.



The lakes:

VICTORY LAKE a specimen water of two acres with interesting island features and lily pads in the margins. Stocked with commons and mirrors to 35lbs along with ghost carp, tench, roach, rudd and specimen perch. Night fishing by prior booking available.











MATCH LAKES - DAMSON AND VICTORIA one acre in size, each of these lakes are designed for the match angler having shallow margins with reeds for summer fishing and a deep drop off for light feeder work and winter fishing. They are stocked with a great variety of fish including carp to 16lbs and we believe these are the most uniquely designed match lakes in Kent!

MEADOW LAKE one acre in size with eight marked pegs and traditional grass bank fishing, Meadow is stocked with scaley mirrors and commons to 14 lbs. This lake also holds large perch and roach so you will be sure to catch!

BERRY LAKE is one acre in size and stocked with 3000 F1s, commons, mirrors, roach, rudd, perch and some large bream. Float and pellet tactics work well on this lake. IN the summer months, surface sport with mixers produces huge bags of fish.

Day Ticket Prices:

1 rod - £8 2 rods - £10 Family Ticket (2 adults and 2 children) - £25 Under 16s - £6 Sundowner (3pm to 7pm) - £6 Rod hire (includes seat hire & landing net) - £5 Night fishing 24 hours (by prior arrangement) - £20

Holidays at Sandwich Lakes

All bookings



30 touring pitches with 16 amp EHU, new toilet and shower block with disabled wetroom.

Caravans & trailer tents £15 per night
Large motorhomes £18 per night
Pitch fees include EHU
and showers!

for Car



CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME CLUB

We also have a CL site for Caravan & Motorhome Club members

www.sandwichlakes.co.uk

a simple approach to the method feeder

The use of Method Feeders first came to prominence on the UK match fishing circuit during the 1980's. The concept is simplicity itself. A flat or open framed in-line feeder wrapped in groundbait with a hookbait presented on a very short hooklink.

The Method works on the principle that as fish compete for the groundbait it is almost inevitable that they will pick up the hookbait and the short hooklink creates a very efficient self hooking rig.

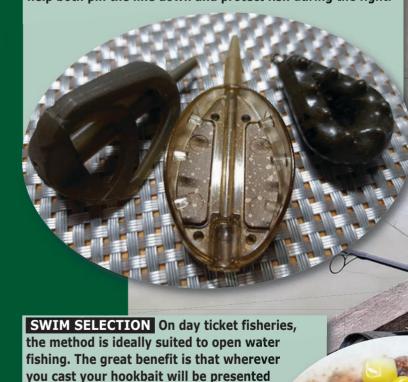
Since their original inception, Method Feeders have become highly specialised pieces of tackle with different designs aimed at match, specialist and even specimen carp fishing but in their most basic form they are very effective way of targeting day ticket carp lakes. In this months article we look at what you need to get started.

RODS AND REELS The important thing is to match the rod and reel to the size of carp you are targeting and then in turn that will dictate the size of feeder you are able to use. A general quiver tip rod is perfect for single figure to mid-double sized carp, whereas if targeting larger fish or

if targeting larger fis fishing at distance a specialist style rod with a test curve of 1.75lb+ will be required.

METHOD FEEDERS Method Feeders are available in many shapes, sizes and weights. The main ones are vaned, grip lead and flatbed. The first two are probably best suited to the new or occasional method fisheries as they are easy to use and you can mould the method mix around the whole feeder/lead with your hands. Flatbed Feeders are the preferred feeder for match anglers but are more prone to the method mix flying off during the cast.

The best advice is to start small and get the hang of casting before moving to bigger and heavier Feeders. It is always advisable to use a length of rig tubing above your feeder to help both pin the line down and protect fish during the fight.



as part of the food parcel which means

wherever it lands, it will be fishing

effectively. When casting, start by

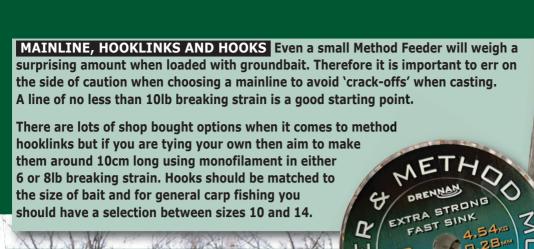
using a gentle overhead 'lob' to get

used to the extra weight. Trying to

the force causes the groundbait to part

'punch' the rig out will result in showering yourself in method mix as

ways with the feeder!





METHOD MIX A method mix is simply a sticky ground bait that can be wrapped around the feeder. Consistency is key and it is a good idea to start with one of the many shop bought mixes. Follow the mixing instructions carefully to get the right mix. As you get more confident you can add small amounts of free offerings to the mix or bulk it out using dry feed such as vitalin.

BITE DETECTION The Method Rig is a self hooking rig that works on the principle that once a fish has taken the bait, the short hooklink means that the fish will feel the weight of the feeder immediately, causing it to 'bolt' and hook itself. Alarms and bobbins can be used but will drive you to distraction with constant lifts and drops as the fish compete over the method feeder, pushing it around the lakebed in the process. Far better to use a quiver tip or leave your reel in the free-spool position. There is no confusing a bite on the method in warm water conditions as your rod will hoop over as an angry carp exits your swim at a great rate of knots!

HOOKBAITS As with all things fishing there are a huge variety of dedicated hook baits for method fishing but as a starting point sweetcorn and trout pellet are both very effective. There is no need to use a hair rig as sweetcorn can be fished straight on the hook and pellets can be attached via a pellet

band, allowing you to change between baits without having to change rigs. One thing that I've found is that 'less is more' when it comes to hookbaits.

A small bait is more likely to get hoovered up without hesitation by a hungry carp whereas a larger bait may arouse suspicion and be avoided.

Vary your presentation by moulding your hookbait onto the groundbait or leaving fishing free to see which gets bites quicker.

FWI RECOMMENDED WATERS

The Method will work on any water but below is a selection where it is particularly suited:

Greenacres Farm Fishery / Coombewood Fishery

Hawkhurst, Quarry Lake / Chart Hill Lakes



These lovely family owned lakes just south of Maidstone are open all year for you to enjoy! **CLUB AND MATCH BOOKINGS WELCOME**

www.pinionsfishingbaits.co.uk

COARSE LAKE totals 5.5 acres **SPECIMEN LAKE covers 1.4 acres**



07398 571337

OPEN DAILY 7am to 7pm (walk-ins welcome) Night fishing available 7pm to 7am



Chart Hill Lakes

charthilllakes 0



Chart Hill Road Chart Sutton ME17 3EZ www.charthilllakes.co.uk

Great result for Graham

Graham Dann had a great result fishing a few hours during a slight lift in temperatures with these two great conditioned fish. Both fell to a zig fished 2ft below the surface. Black foam topped with yellow tempted them and they were the only fish out during his visit with all bottom rods motionless. As Graham mentioned to FWI "It goes to show how searching the layers this time of year can pay off. It's not a tactic I've used often but certainly more confident now!"





Fine common for Dave

An immaculate 18lbs 1oz common carp was the best of a multi fish haul for Dave Purcell who spent 36hrs at the popular Orchard Place Farm Fishery. Dave endured freezing overnight conditions but was able to benefit from relatively 'high' daytime temperatures of 6 degrees with a succession of fish falling to single hookbaits fished in conjunction with pva bags of pellet.







Tel/Fax: Andy Ashdown 01797 280180 Mobile:

07906 232225

5 secluded lakes set in 60 acres of woodland, containing Carp to 30lbs, Tench to 5lbs, Bream to 9lb plus Roach. Rudd and Chub

Vehicle access/night fishing allowed / match bookings taken

Spring Lodge | Iden Wood Fishery | Coldharbour Lane | Iden | Rye | East Sussex | TN317UT



Cuckfield Road BURGESS HILL RH15 8RE

01444 247757

Opening times:

Mon-Fri: 8.00am to 5.30pm

Sat: 8.00am to 12.30pm

Sunday: Closed Bank Holiday: Closed





check out our Facebook and Instagram for the latest news and competitions!

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Catch Reports





























www.hawkhurstfishfarm.co.uk



ORCHARD PLACE FARM FISHING

13 FISHING LAKES in the KENT COUNTRYSIDE Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6NY

01892 838576 or 07860 608218 Catfish to 112lb+

At Orchard Place Farm you can surround yourself in the natural beauty of the Kent countryside, located just outside of the picturesque town of Paddock Wood, and only 8 miles from Maidstone. The fishery boasts 13 lakes - 10 carp and catfish lakes and 3 match/pleasure lakes.

SPECIMEN LAKES

DAY TICKETS AVAILABLE 24HR - £30 48HR - £55

(additional charge for 3rd rod)

FULLY FUNCTIONING LAKE 13 - CARP & CATFISH WATER

Many swims have disabled access • All-weather pathways leading all around the lakes and up to each individual swim • Purpose-built toilets located in the main car park (with hot shower) • Between Lake 3 and Lake 4 (toilet and sink block only) • Block constructed by Lake 7 also contains a microwave, fridge and washing up facilities.

MATCH/ **PLEASURE LAKES** DAY TICKETS

2 RODS - £10 CONCESSIONS 1 ROD - £8

FOOD IS AVAILABLE ON SITE FROM MID-MARCH TO OCTOBER

www.orchardplacefarmfishing.co.uk

Tackle/bait/shop situated in the main car park, stocking all top bait brands including worms maggots etc. Everything you need at **VERY** competitive prices.



NEW TO ORCHARD PLACE FARM! HORSMONDEN FISHING LAKES



Horsmonden Fishing Lakes, Grovehurst Road, Horsmonden TN12 8BQ All enquiries and bookings to Orchard Place Farm Fishery on 01892 838576

Great sport at Lovelace Fishery



Nathan Newick - 22lbs

Anglers have been enjoying fantastic sport at Lovelace Fishery over the last month. Some of the highlights include Michael Fellows with a new PB in the shape of 'The Corporal' at a weight of 25lbs 8ozs, Gordon Fellows with numerous fish to 22lbs. Mark Boxall has also been getting in on the action with multiple catches to 22lbs. Last but not least, Nathan Newick had a very prolific session, landing 11 fish in 48hrs, weighing between 16-22lbs.









Carp, Coarse and Vintage Angling Specialist

Good quality, pre-loved tackle purchased and sold

Stockist of Korda, Nash, Gardner, Middy, Wychwood, Leeda Mainline and many more quality manufacturers. Fresh maggots and worms always in stock along with frozen

deadbaits and a massive range of boilies and groundbaits.

Come and visit us at:

Maidstone Road, Wateringbury ME18 5EH (opposite the railway station on the B2015)

01622 814296 or 07941 085011

A warm welcome and a great deal awaits you!

IF SELLING, PLEASE PHONE BEFORE VISITING

Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society

The river was a bit coloured and running for the last couple of weeks of the season but there were some worthy catches reported.

Larry Howard had a nice afternoon Chub fishing using his trusty bread tactics on the feeder.

The last two matches on the river would decide this year's Match Championship and it was a very close affair between the top three.

The Winter Peg Down fished at Swanmead was a tough one with only a few small roach and the odd chublet being caught. Austin Battell took

the honours with 4lbs of small chub while John Cooper worked hard to catch 3lbs 9ozs of small roach to take second spot. In third was Mick Smith with 3lbs 4ozs of small roach and a skimmer.

The last match of the season was the pairs and last year's winners Peter Hole and Austin Battell were drawn together again and manager to take the win with a combined weight of 9lbs 7ozs. In second spot with 9lbs 2ozs was Larry Howard and Paul Mitchell and 3rd spot with 7lbs 5ozs was Sean Pope and Steve Twort. Sean landed a surprise tench over 3lb, while Steve landed a nice 1lb roach. Larry Howard's best fish was a cracking 3lbs 7ozs chub. These results did not change the Match Championship, so this year's Champion is **Steve Parker**, congratulations Steve.

The Society continued work on reinstating the platforms at Haysden Lake plus some new stock of carp to nearly 25lbs were introduced into

Barden Lake The Old Ballast Pit continues to fish well with plenty of 20lbs+ carp being caught. The New Lagoon is fishing better with the tench starting to show and roach and rudd being caught to over 1lb. Plenty of small carp to around 3lbs also coming out.











Established in 1895 the association provides its members and day ticket anglers with various lakes and rivers to fish throughout Hastings, Bexhill and the surrounding area.

We currently have seven waters that provide a mixture of species at specimen weights to suit all anglers' preferences. As well as the lakes run by the association we also offer members the ability to fish various stretches of river in the surrounding area.

The association provides waters to suit all ages, abilities and interests so there's something for everyone.

To apply to become a member please download and print the application form from our website Complete and return to the Membership officer on the application, alternatively it is possible to purchase your membership from any of the tackle shops listed



Normanhurst Lake

For further information please contact:

Chris Pagan 07429 655237 Steve Potter 07935 268174 Postal enquiries: S Corke, 2 The Siding, Bexhill-on-Sea TN40 1RF

hastingsandbexhillangling.co.uk



14 miles of River and 7 Lakes containing:

Carp to 52lb 4oz, Tench to 12lb 8oz, Bream to 19lb+, Barbel to 15lb 2oz, Chub to 5lb+, Perch to 3lb 6oz, Pike to 31lb 6oz. Crucians to 4lb 6oz and Grass Carp to 29lb 6oz.

Also large Roach and Rudd to 3lbs and large eels.

MEMBERSHIP FEE 2022/23 SEASON

Senior Membership - £70 + £10 Joining fee Ladies Membership - £30 + £10 Joining fee OAP 65 years - £35 + £10 Joining fee

Junior Members £10 + NO JOINING FEE

Family Ticket (parents + children u16) - £100 + £10 Joining fee Flood Barrier Night Ticket - £175 + £10 Joining fee Student 16-18 years - £35 + £10 Joining fee

View the waters on the web www.tonbridge-angling.co.uk PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB Contact Martyn on 07802 248861

The Linton Angling Society - Membership Vacancies

We are a small but friendly club with beautiful lake, 2 ponds, 5 reservoirs and over 8 miles of fishing on the River Medway and Beult.

Our waters contain Carp to 32lb, Pike 30lb+, Tench 8lb+, Chub 7lb, Perch 4lb and Roach to 3lb, including some good Bream and Eels. All year fishing, member's guest permits, night fishing allowed.

We run over 30 matches a year and have a large junior section. Concessionary rates available for OAPs, Disabled and Juniors.

For further details contact: Jason Tuckey on 07983 569220 e-mail: lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk

Junior Informer





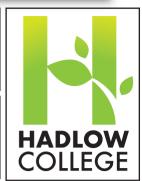






SCOTTIES Fishing Tackle

25 Southwick Square Southwick BN42 4FP 01273 592903





joined her Dad Asa on Wylands Middle Lake for this fine looking mirror carp.



Harry Metcalfe
fishes at every
chance he gets.
On a recent family
trip he still managed
to sneak in some
float fishing for
roach.



Amelia Fuller
fished a small
stretch of her local
river Darenth.
She used
liquidised bread in
an open ended
feeder with a
cheese paste
hookbait for this
lovely chub.



Charlie Siggs
caught this
fantastically
marked
9lbs 8ozs pike
on a soft lure,
adding another
of 6lbs.



Despite facing many challenges,

Mollie Gunn

can't wait for the weather to improve
so she can join her dad on the bank,
chasing an even bigger PB!

FRESHWATER

April update

by instructor Warren White



With spring here and the weather improving, there are plenty of things to look forward to for the coming year

Fishing for schools have had their new intake of schools for this year, this involves a application for funding that all schools in England and Wales get an opportunity to take part in and the schools are chosen from the strongest applications. As well as 7 local Kent schools that were successful, we also have 4 mental health and disability groups we will working with in the summer school holidays. Year on year our fishing courses get more popular, this year with we have taken on a new school Longfield academy and from our mental health groups we have a new group, Choice support, Peppercorns, Dartford. Never before has fishing been so popular.

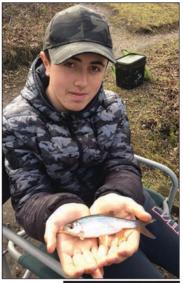
For our work to go ahead we are fortunate enough to have some cracking sponsors, this month I am looking at one of our sponsors, The Tackle box, Dartford, who fund a local school, Stone Lodge to do a fishing course. For us, it is great to have such a power house of the fishing industry on board, one that is my local tackle shop and has recently celebrated its 40 year anniversary. It makes common sense that in order for our young people to take up fishing as a hobby they need a local tackle shop, where they can get their fishing gear, advise and importantly their maggots. In order for more young people to come into our

sport, it has to be the coaches, tackle shops, clubs and fisheries that play their part in promoting juniors into angling and once there, supporting them on their way. I know for a fact, what the Tackle box gives back, in order to get young people into fishing.

Winter Coaching

I work all through the school's term time. Twice a week at Rowhill SEN school, Longfield on a fishing and educational course, which is an all year course. The winter months can be tricky, the main challenge is finding places to fish that you have got a chance of a bite, but they are out there. Rivers normally come into their own in winter months, it is just a case of keeping your eye on the weather forecast and planning around that. We have had occasions when the local lakes are frozen, but the river being flowing can be your savior for a fishing session.





Fish where the fish are



Tales from the River Bank

A couple of recent sessions with the Rowhill school students. On the first, we visited Grove Farm fishery, Hadlow with a cold easterly wind blowing and heavy rain we decided to start in the lodge and look at ground bait. This was the subject of an AQA fishing course we were working on. The lads learnt how to mix ground bait correctly, looking also at different types of ground bait, colours and flavours that could be added and the importance of a riddle that can turn poor lumpy ground bait into good textured ground bait.

The boys then went onto the lake to have a fish, at this time of the year the fishing is really hard, especially the silver fish, in some cases you have more chance of catching a carp than a silver fish. On this session the boys were all fishing whips in the hope of a silver fish, but the group found the going tough, especially in torrential rain. Getting near to the end of the session, one of our lads saw his float sail away and proceeded to play a nice fully scaled mirror, which he done well to get in, especially as he was using the humble whip more associated with catching smaller fish. The prize for catching the fish, on such a beast of a day, was a chocolate, kit cat.

The second session was going to be a challenge, the weather forecast was for gale force winds, just what you don't want when you are coaching young people and they are your responsibility, but you know that at some point in the session the lads are going to want to have a fish. The venue was Shorne Country park, Gravesend a great place to take a youngster to catch fish, but like all fisheries can be difficult in the Winter. The idea was to start in the Cafe, do a bit of paperwork towards the boys' fishing course and hopefully then have a fish, as long as the wind didn't blow us over, which is how it panned out. We found a bit of shelter at the end of the lake, they call the Steps lake, after an hour of fishing, whips, with light line and small hooks, feeding little and often we had nothing to show for it. We decided for the last 30 minutes of the session to up sticks and move onto the other lake at the venue The long lake. I made the suggestion, and there was a lot of stares from the students, as if to say you must be mad, but we did move, only a short walk. The swim we normally fish was occupied, it was hard to believe that there was another angler out in such windy conditions. Anyway we found a suitable swim, quickly plumbed up, fed a few maggots the float went in and a few seconds later it went under and we were into our first roach. After that, feeding little and often the swim was solid, we were catching one fish after the other, it seemed like a miracle. A steep learning curve for the boys today, it doesn't matter what your fishing for, whether it be Carp or roach, sometimes to catch, you have to move.

The Golden Years of Coarse Fishing

Winter carp fishing on the Peterborough Electricity Cut

It all started quite by accident when a local angler called Don Barnes caught a mirror carp of 20lbs 6ozs from the warm waters of the cut below the power station outfall in the centre of town

This catch caused quite a stir in the Angling Times of Friday January 9th 1959, as not only had it been caught in the middle of winter, but also on a float and only 4 lb breaking strain line!

Angling Times was based in Peterborough in those days, and stories like this were a God given gift for their front page ,as a local reporter could be on the spot with a camera within the hour. The power station, built before the war, discharged warm water at regular intervals into this purpose built 'cut' after it had been used to cool the turbines within the brick walls of this coal fired station. This warm water did not generally flow at night, but did so only when this very small generating station was operational, usually between 7am to 11pm, and the water could reach 85 degrees f.

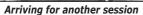
The Leney strain carp loved it, and thrived in and out of the River Nene for nearly 20 years, until carp anglers discover it! It wasn't pretty fishing up there, with the constant sweet smell from the sugar beet factory on the other side of the river, which ran adjacent to the 'cut', and the smoke from the coal fired power station blowing all over town. This was no 'BB' or Mr Crabtree water, right in the middle of industrial Peterborough. There was however a good cafe out side the gates, and this proved invaluable when the fishing or the cold became too much! News of large carp captures spread like wildfire among the young local anglers of Peterborough, to the extent that schoolboys with no carp fishing experience began to flock to the muddy banks of the cut during all months of the year, and began to catch 20lbs carp in 1961 and 1962, and the local newspaper loved it. Initially during those first 3 years ,at least one large carp was caught each month during the summer,and then in 1963 during the Autumn and Winter months. A 29lbs fish was taken by a Mr Mike Smith, later to be recaptured in October by Stan Hill and Peter Harvey when it had reached the weight of 33lbs 12ozs. These were huge fish for the time, the 10th largest ever caught, and Angling Times was there to record and report on it all.

Needless to say, these events took the carp fishing world by storm, and carp anglers from all over the country converged on Peterborough to try and get a piece of the action. I, misguidedly, was one of them in 1965. A 19 year old boy with very little carp fishing experience, but with a van and keen to try my hand! I should have stayed in Kent! The 'Cut' was dug in 1954 from the power station and flowed directly into the River Nene, via a shallow sluice from where the fish could come and go as they pleased.

Of course they chose the warm water, especially in winter! Power stations all over the country have warm water outfalls of one sort or another when they are sited on rivers or on the coast. The most famous of all is of course Dungeness in Kent where the cod used to congregate in the shadow of the outfall, and large catches were once made. I even visited here with Dennis Darkin and George Brown on a few occasions and had some memorable bags of fish, long distance casting with lug, rag worm or peeler crab. It was handy to have two world class tournament casters with me at the time to show me the ropes!

Much has been written in the carp fishing history books by Chris Ball and Kevin Clifford about the 'cut' so I will not dwell too long on it's history. I will however tell of my limited experiences up there in the long cold winters of 65 and 66 when several members of my newly formed Kent Specimen group joined the experts from Northampton, Grantham and Leicester to try our hand on this exciting but uninviting stretch of water.







Bob's home for another night trip

My very first visit up there was in October 1965, the week end after a successful first trip to the Royalty Fishery at Christchurch fishing for Barbel. We thought nothing of travelling hundreds of miles in those days for our fishing, as petrol was cheap and driving was a novelty for me having only just passed my test the year before.

Our vans, A35 or Viva vans, were fitted out with racks and shelves to take our tackle, so a quick get away was possible after work on a Friday evening. When I think now of what we went through on the chance of catching a big fish, but everyone was doing it, and we suffered for our hobby. When I say, everybody, of course I mean all the members of the 18 or so specimen groups that had sprung up around the country at that time. My old mate Jim Gibbinson was the one for burning the candle at both ends! He thought nothing of fishing 12 consecutive nights till 1 in the morning, then off to work the next day, and he was a teacher!! In correspondence from him in the mid 1960s he describes how an average week end consisted of all night sessions carp fishing to Billing, The Cut and the main River Nene, in 1965!



Mike Smith - 19lbs 12ozs & 29lbs 8ozs

Three of us had vans, so we paired up and loaded all the necessary equipment for a double winter



Dave Goodrum with a 'Cut' 23lbs common

night session. I took Grahame Igglesden from Blackheath who had not yet passed his driving test, and on arrival at the Cut we found Ron Blackmore and Dave Cruickshank already there, set up in swims halfway up the cut on the river side , Jim was there as well, fishing with Fred Wagstaff from Leicester. They favoured the swims near the entrance to the cut from the main river. I had previously been corresponding with 3 lads from Grantham who were members of the Denton Carp Catchers Club. They fished for carp and pike at Denton Reservoir in Lincolnshire and were seasoned experts on the cut as well. Stan Hill, Dave Goodrum and Bernard Jessop had been fishing this water since October 1964 and Stan had caught a fine Mirror of 33lbs on potato, a fish which cropped up several times over the next few years.

I had arranged to meet them all on the banks that first week end of ours and they had agreed to show us the ropes! The most important piece of kit you need up here is a thermometer,

said Dave. The water temperature can vary between 61 degrees and 78 degrees, and steam rises off the surface of the water depending when they decide to pump! Well,

we had come with no such gear, so Dave took soundings and put us in the warmest spot, which was sometimes at the infall and sometimes at the outfall, round the bend near the river entrance. The carp, he said, always congregated in the hottest piece of water, and can move up and down the cut all night according to their fancy!

This was in October, so it was just getting dark when I was positioned in a pitch at the top end of the cut, near to some galvanised railings where the swim was about 6 feet deep, with a shallow shelf on both sides. By the time darkness fell all 8 of us were well spread out along the whole length of the cut, so some one must be near some fish we thought. Jim reckoned that each carp caught that season was the result of over 2200 man hours of fishing, so they didn't exactly give themselves up. Only about 75 carp were ever caught from the cut in 10 years of fishing, one third commons and two thirds mirrors, and only 7 were over 30lbs, but most were in their 20's. You never seemed to get one under 10 lbs in weight. Several people had 4-6 fish and Dave Goodrum and Elliot Smith were the most successful. This was 60 years ago, carp were not as prolific as they are today, nor of course so large.



Stan Hill's 31lbs 12ozs mirror

The 'cut' was famous for its rats, and bats, and you dare not leave out spare bread near your swim. You could hear them scampering between our swims, in the snow in the dead of night. We fished in some atrocious weather some January nights, we must have been mad. This was all before the advent of the 'Bivvy', which we hurriedly invented soon afterwards in double short time. The Bivvy would have been no good up there anyway with the sloping banks at 45 degrees, we just used large 45 inch Effgeeco fishing umbrellas set up at an angle with canvas sides draped over, and laid on a bed chair with our ex-army tank suits, jumpers and woolly hats. Some mornings we were covered in thick snow as the mist rose off the water, we could have died, all in the pursuit of a 20lbs carp, I never did catch one!!!

I saw and netted lots of carp whilst I was up there, for Stan Smith a 22lbs common, Dave Goodrum a 25lbs mirror, Grahame Igglesden a fine 20lbs common, and to Fred and Jim fish of 24lbs. I lost a few at the net in the dead of night, but made friendships up there that lasted a lifetime. I wouldn't have missed it for the world, when we got back to Kent we started our winter carp fishing campaigns at Sutton, Kirby and Brooklands,

We caught far more, but smaller carp, proving that they could indeed be caught in the depths of winter, proving Dick Walker correct in his theories, and anglers like Mike Winter, Gerry Savage, Steve Edwards, Fred Wilton and all the Dartford crowd including our own Bob Morris, were catching them in numbers right through the winter months.

This all started big discussions in the pages of 'Fishing' magazine, (our bible) where Jim Gibbinson, joined in to prove that carp did feed in winter and carp fishermen need not hang up their rods in October, like the early writers had told us. Today of course it's all history, but started 60 years ago on the freezing banks of a bleak canal in the midlands by dedicated specialist carp anglers looking for their first 20lbs carp. I was there, but not regarded as one of them, I turned to trout instead!

TROUT MFORMER



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We would like to wish all our Anglers and Fishery Friends a very Happy Easter!

The Trout Fishing Season has got off to a great start at Tenterden with quality Rainbows being caught in 3 fully stocked lakes comprising 5 acres of water. Trout are putting up a good fight for our Anglers which all adds to the fun of fishing here in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Tenterden, Kent where nature surrounds you.

We take pride in stocking hard fighting Rainbows, Blues and Browns ranging from 3lbs-14lbs. We do request that our Brownies are returned to the water. Popular patterns: Bloodworm, Hoppers, Blue Flash Damsel, Montanas. You have the choice of catch/keep or catch/return permits – Full Day and Half Day.

The Fishery Lodge is open for you to enjoy providing tea/coffee with our compliments. We have great facilities with kitchen/dining/sofa, toilet and lakeside balcony where you can relax. All this adds to a good fishing experience for friends and family at Tenterden. Booking Please call 01580 763201 or email gaynor@coombe-farm.com to book your fishing. We limit our numbers to 12 so there is plenty of space for our Anglers to fish.

Fishing Report - visit our website www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk and click on News/Fishing Report. Please follow us on Instagram and Facebook and visit our Gallery.

Stay & Fish Our Shepherds Hut accommodation is open all year round for both Anglers who wish to stay and fish and for other guests who just



welcome a short break away in Kent. We have had some very positive reviews. We offer 20% off our permit prices if you stay in our Ghillies Hut. To discover more visit our 'Shepherds Hut' heading on our website and click on Availability and Bookings which directs you to our Airbnb listing.

Fishing Tuition is available. Discover more on the Tuition Page on our website. £50 for 1hr 30 mins. Please enquire/book with Richard Stokes, our Instructor, direct email: richard@coombe-farm.com if you are interested in learning a new skill set this year.

Gift Vouchers - Fishing Permits, Tuition and Shepherds Hut staycations can be purchased by bank transfer, cheque or cash. We can email/send them out for you.

Our friendly, family run Fishery was established in 1975. We are in the Top 50 Stillwater Trout Fisheries in the British Isles and a Trout Master Water. Our Farm/Fishery is also a unique Wedding Venue in July, August & early September when we are closed for Summer. Discover more at www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk/wedding-venue

We look forward to welcoming you for some great fishing at our Kent Fishery set in picturesque surroundings.



As the temperatures are warming we are beginning to see rises and even small buzzer hatches so hopefully Spring is on its way! Fishing is good this time of year as generally it's not too bright and the wind is manageable too. As always, you can't go wrong with a Blue Flash Damsel or a Montana, but we are continuing to see a real range of flies catching well - the beauty of having 4 lakes all offering something a bit different to the last is that there is generally something to suit everyone - if you like buzzer fishing, or pulling a self-tied lure, the lakes are stocked evenly so there are generally fish biting somewhere.

We love seeing youngsters getting into fly fishing - recently Matthew Telford took advantage of the guardian ticket whereby an angler can share a 4 fish ticket with an under 16 year old and had a 'cracking day'. Matthew said "My lad (pictured right) really enjoyed it when we eventually found some fish that wanted what we were offering. We filled our ticket and lost a handful along the way too. And the jammy sod caught a Spartic, something I've not managed to do." Well done young man!

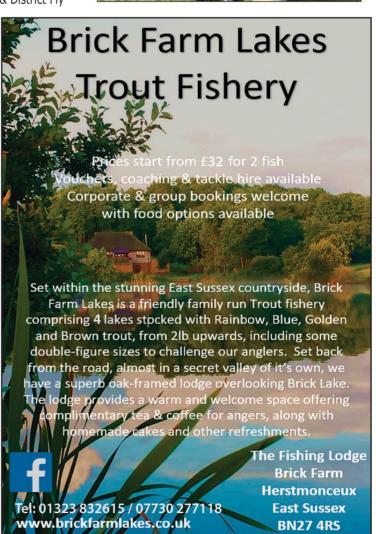
Pete and Sara had a lesson with Phil, both catching a fish during their lesson weighing 3lbs 3ozs and 2lbs 7ozs – they went home to prepare the fish for their dinner for some friends which is what it's all about. Pete visited us a week later to purchase a #6 Snowbee Classic kit for Sara's birthday so they are both well and truly hooked and raring to go!

Brick Farm is proud to be the home venue for local angling club Eastbourne & District Fly

Fishers Club – a friendly group of anglers who get together regularly to fish at not only our waters but also other local fly fisheries, and in the Summer months they even organise 'Carp on the Fly' events.

They run small friendly competitions for various trophies, awards and vouchers - the most recent of which was on Saturday 18 March when eight members visited us on a soggy morning for their annual Pairs Competition. Fished on a 3 fish ticket everybody caught, with the majority of the pairings all catching their limit. The decider was therefore down to combined weight - the winning pair was Ray Burt and John Harratt with a combined 6 fish bag of 17lbs 15ozs. During match hours, a total of 21 fish were landed for a total weight of 56lbs 5ozs - not a bad average!











Age is something that affects us all and forty odd years of fly and lure fishing have taken their toll on my body. My right arm and shoulder have taken a lot of punishment and I'm now experiencing continual pain that is so strong, I stop fishing! For me this is serious, fishing isn't just a hobby it's a lifestyle. I am now awaiting a steroid injection to ease the pain. What to do in the meantime? Obviously, casting is a repetitive action that is the cause. So, I have decided that rather than just relying on medication, or stopping fishing, I am going to try to become a left-handed angler. I think this could be my biggest challenge so far!

Getting started

I chose a small water for my first attempt at left-handed fly fishing. Chequertree [TN26 3JR] is a small lake so distance casting wouldn't be necessary. Being quite sheltered would also make casting easier. I really hadn't given it much thought before going, if I had I might have gone off the idea. At first, I wafted my 10ft rod around without making much impression. The line just went forwards and backwards without loading the rod, at no time could I feel anything. After a frustrating first hour I started to feel I was making progress, although my casts were barely going 10 – 12 yards [10-12m]. Fortunately, the fish were likely to be in the margins at this time of year, so it was enough to give me a chance of catching.

I had chosen to use an 'adjustable indicator' which suspends the flies at set depths below the surface. In this case at two, four and six feet [60, 120 & 180cm]. I felt this was a good option, as I knew from previous experience that this method is highly effective in winter. It allowed me to fish very slowly without my flies dropping below the trout's field of vision. Importantly I wouldn't have to cast too often, so I was now fishing in a fashion. I had not realised how difficult retrieving with my right hand would be! I'm naturally right-handed, so thought it would be easy to retrieve with this hand but found it even more awkward than casting. Stripped or pull retrieves were OK but the 'figure eight' which I use almost exclusively was neigh on impossible!

Once I'd cast the indicator out it was just a matter of straightening the fly line and watching intently for any signs of a take. My point fly was a gold headed Apps Bloodworm; this would function as an anchor holding the leader vertical, this would ensure each fly was fishing at its set depth. After waiting for the flies to settle I slowly inched my line back towards the margin, expecting a take at any moment. I didn't have to wait too long before the indicator buried, I fumbled with the rod trying to strike and missed my first chance, doh! I now had to 'think' how I was going to hold the rod and how I was going to set the hook? What had seemed a simple exercise of changing hands was far more complicated than I had first thought.

As the day wore on, I gradually worked my way through these difficulties until I felt capable of hooking a fish if I got another chance. My casting was improving, I was still struggling but occasionally I felt the line compress the rod enough to shoot a couple of extra yards as I delivered the cast. Finally the day came to a close, I'd managed to land six fish, but had also lost another two when I had failed to keep the line tight enough to stop my barbless flies from falling out! Add to this a few missed takes and I considered it had been a guite successful first trip!



I returned to Chequertree later that week. This time I opted for two shorter 9ft rods, the shorter rods would generate greater line speed, and would give me extra distance. I had struggled with my longer 10ft rods on the previous visit. The longer rods slow down the line, which in turn opens the casting loop, this is an advantage when fishing teams of flies, when boat fishing. Today there was a breeze running the length of the pool which made casting difficult. This reminded me of my early attempts at fly fishing many years ago, when casting was more challenging than catching fish!

It was a very slow start, I moved around the pool, eventually ending up where I should have started, casting into the wind. Although I couldn't cast very far, it wasn't necessary as the fish were tight to the margin. As my indicator drifted towards me it bobbed under, a guick strike set the hook and I was playing my first fish, I sighed with relief. A couple of fish followed shortly afterwards, I had found the fish and wasn't in any hurry to move on. The fish were not all deep, one took my Diawl Bach set at 4ft [120cm] while the others took the Apps at 6ft [180cm].

Eventually, when the takes dried up I moved pegs hoping to find fish elsewhere. I made a complete circuit, returning to the hot

pegs again, fishless. I was surprised when the indicator failed here too. It was time to switch methods, a cast and retrieve approach might trigger a response, as the subtle drifting tactic was no longer working. I chose a mid-glass intermediate line, this sinks at one inch per second, it would allow me to mix up retrieve speeds while maintaining a constant depth and a horizontal path. I had a short twelve-foot [365cm] leader with a single dropper set at five feet [150cm] from the point. My flies were a white FM Humungus on the point and a black marabou FM Diawl Back on a dropper. Casting across the wind would make my flies more visible to any fish that were facing the current, created by the surface drift. This tactic paid off immediately, but surprisingly all the fish took the Diawl Bach, not the Humungus. What a way to finish another successful day.

The adjustable indicator

I have copied James Gardner's adjustable depth indicator set up. I'll explain how I tie my leader and what materials I use.

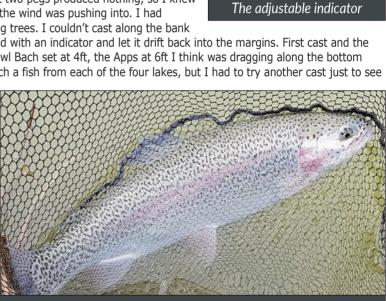
From my fly line I tie 4-5 feet [120-150cm] of co-polymer nylon, I use co-poly as it's more buoyant than fluorocarbon, so it doesn't sink the fly lines tip. I slide a pair of Drennan 'Grip Stops' with a 2mm leader ring sandwiched in between, helicopter style. To this leader ring I attach a short dropper of co-poly and attach a 'Fulling Mill' Bung. Finally, I attach another leader ring to the end of the nylon, to this I attach my top dropper and fly. Next, I add a further two flies at 2ft [60cm] intervals. All my flies are attached to 9.5lb 'Seaguar - Grand Max' fluorocarbon in 3x diameter. I know this sounds complicated, but it is very simple really. The advantage of using grip stops is it allows for quick depth changes. I use leader rings as they allow me to change flies frequently, when the dropper gets too short it's just a matter of removing the old material and adding another length. Keeping the flies bunched up at two-foot intervals is very important, as I'm trying to isolate the precise feeding depth the trout are searching for food.

I decided my next trip should be somewhere else. I wanted to see if I could catch fish from another water, another little test. So the following week I arrived at Brick Farm, Herstmonceux [BN27 4RS] on a bitterly cold morning. After a warming drink and a chat with Phil Axell, I left the lodge and headed to Well Lake.

I decided to fish with the strong breeze off my back, to make casting easier. I was again using the mid-glass intermediate, casting along the margins in the crystal-clear water. The first two pegs produced nothing, so I knew I was in the wrong place. I reluctantly moved downwind towards a corner the wind was pushing into. I had noticed a couple of fish breach in the ripple here, just off some overhanging trees. I couldn't cast along the bank

as there were too many obstacles behind me. I could however cast up-wind with an indicator and let it drift back into the margins. First cast and the indicator buried as it approached the near shelf. It had taken the black Diawl Bach set at 4ft, the Apps at 6ft I think was dragging along the bottom which was effectively slowing the drift down. I had intended to try and catch a fish from each of the four lakes, but I had to try another cast just to see

if this was a lucky capture or whether the fish were concentrated at the bottom of the wind? A couple of casts later and another savage take and my rod is bent double. Slowly I gained line, after several powerful runs a plump 4lb rainbow surfaced with my Diawl Bach clearly visible in the corner of its mouth, time to move on.



A bright bar of silver!

GUIDED LURE & FLY FISHING DAYS WITH ANDY LUSH

Andy offers a guiding service for those who want to learn more about 'Lure Fishing' and 'Fly Fishing'

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TO BOOK A DAY email: info@thefriendlyfisherman.co.uk with your contact phone number and Andy will call you back and discuss details



Next stop, Stag Lake. I picked a peg that put me at the bottom of the wind, as by now it was obvious this was where the fish were. This was the shallow end, so the indicator was again my method of choice. After a few casts I managed to get the angles right which avoided the line dragging across the wind and lifting my flies up. When I got it right it was just a matter of taking up the slack, 'dead drift' just keeping in touch. That's all I needed to do and on cue, as the line approached the near shelf the indicator dragged under and stayed under, fish on!

I was about to move on when Nate Green found me. Nate is fairly new to fly fishing so I spent some time discussing tactics and flies with him. To demonstrate how close the fish where to the margins I cast my indicator out and talked him through the set up and how it worked. A rod length from the bank and it shot under, as another fish fell to the method. Confidence is a vital element in fishing and my confidence was sky high by now. So off I went and bought another two fish ticket. I was enjoying the fishing so much; I had no intention of leaving as it wasn't even lunch time!

Having given Nate an indicator and some small flies I was keen to see how he was doing? I found him on Spring Lake where he was struggling with the indicator, but after a depth change I saw his rod hoop over into his first fish. I wandered off now and finally managed to catch my last two fish, one each from Spring Lake and Brick Lake.

emerging flora and fauna.



Although I don't know whether Robert Browning ever cast a line or even wielded a pair of binoculars, I'm sure we probably have much in common that we could compare notes on.

Unfortunately, my time machine is in for a service now, and I do currently have a few rod orders to finish off. I have started my spring fishing with a few sessions using the float and feeder as usual with tench as the prime target again. Interesting results so far, with the tench being elusive but roach and small bream being quite active. As mentioned in the last episode, the Pike have been difficult this last winter and I finished the season with just a couple more takes out of four days. Several pike anglers that I spoke to on the phone told me that they had also found it hard going this year. I have decided that I won't bash my head against any waters that are proving too difficult this spring/summer, which probably means that I will not be catching many monsters but sometimes you just need to see a bit of action for your time on the bank and I will, as usual, keep my opportunists hat on ready to take advantage of any situation that presents itself. This is a strategy that has often worked well for me in the past and it is surprising how many decent captures have occurred while out fishing for a different species. Carp, in particular are very prone to putting in an appearance during a session when you are after tench, bream or whatever, and I will make sure that I am equipped for the challenge - even when using my float tactics.

Although I am enjoying being out on the bankside and as usual, observing the wonderful seasonal changes that occur as spring progresses, I am also concerned about the general state of our countryside, wildlife, and in particular, the riverside environment – which is certainly under threat from various directions – especially sewage discharge and agricultural run-offs.

It really is more important than ever that we keep vigilant while out on the bankside and give our support to organisations such as the 'Angling Trust and Fish Legal' We can all help to fight the polluters.



A swim invader!



A decent tench from last Spring's campaign



Always a chance of a bonus roach

Best Fishes + Observations

Bob Morris

Piscatorial Politics Pollution of our Waterways

You may have seen Paul Whitehouse's recent TV programs, 'Our Troubled Waters', about the struggle to pursue the perpetrators of ongoing pollution on our rivers and coastal waters. If you have not seen it, then I thoroughly recommend that you do. The campaign to 'seriously' get something done, urgently, is picking up momentum. It is something that I strongly believe should be at the top of the agenda for all angling clubs/water sports/organisations that rely on clean 'danger-free water' to safely conduct their activities. I am extremely pleased to see that the Angling Trust's Water Quality Monitoring Scheme is being taken up by many angling clubs around the South East and elsewhere. Did you also see the BBC News SE clip on Friday 10th March - plus subsequent broadcasts relating to this issue (on the upper Medway and it's tributary, the Grom) featuring our Royal Tunbridge Wells club officials?

It is a crazy situation to have developed/improved fisheries in the way that this club has over the last decade or more, only to have the whole success story threatened by potential pollution events - normally caused by agricultural run off, excessive sewage discharge and the like . Obviously the first step with this type of operation is to identify these threats and where possible the source of the problem. Water quality testing

on a regular basis is the foundation of these efforts and to this end we have been taking part in the WQM scheme/campaign which was instigated by the Angling Trust, and is now rapidly gaining momentum. I would also like to strongly suggest that anglers should be far more careful about cleaning their hands after handling fish and coming into contact with river water. Quite apart from the, already known, risk of contracting Wiels Disease (lepto spirosis) it also now appears that levels of various bacteria, including E -coli, are extremely high at times on the Medway and should 'urgently' be further investigated.

Fish Legal's recent newsletter raised this Nationally Important Issue.

Public's 'right to know' about water company pollution under threat - Fish Legal needs YOU!

Sewage pollution has become a national scandal. In 2015, Fish Legal won a landmark legal case that secured a right for the public to access environmental information directly from privatised water companies in England and Wales. It took a 6-year battle through the Courts against United Utilities, Yorkshire Water, the Government and its information watchdog. The right has been critical in exposing water company abuses. But it is under threat.

What is happening?

The Environmental Information Regulations 2004 are on a list of legislation that DEFRA is considering scrapping as part of a Government Bill currently progressing through Parliament. If the regulations and the case law disappear, privatised water companies can go back to polluting under a veil of secrecy. We are not going to let that happen without a fight. **How can YOU help?** We need to show how many anglers want to stop the right being taken away.

Please ADD YOUR NAME to the growing call to protect the right to know what damage water companies are doing to our rivers, lakes and coastal waters.

And if you can spare £5 or more, please SUPPORT FISH LEGAL in this campaign. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE ACT NOW!

It is not about what we have to gain, but what we have to lose. Thank you for your help - Penny

Penelope Gane, Head of Practice, Fish Legal

Penny was actually involved in a previously successful pollution prosecution by RTWAS against Southern Water during the mid 2000's - when Fish Legal was still operating under the ACA banner - which gives you some idea of how long these problems have been on the go - I can even recall similar events on the Upper Medway well before this.

I will be reporting further on this issue in future episodes of MM/PP.

We can all help...Bob M





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29 Queen Street, Horsham RH13 5AA

8 Castle Street, Hastings TN34 3DY

Bait Bucket Tackle Warehouse Unit T

Rich Industrial Estate, Avis Way, Newhaven BN9 0DU

Angling Specialist (ASH)

Anglers Den

A.R. Tackle

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| Chart Hill Lakes | |
| Chart Hill Road, Chart Sutton ME17 3EZ | 07398 571337 |
| Chequertree Trout and Coarse Fishery | 04222 020270 |
| Bethersden, Near Ashford TN26 3JR | 01233 820078 |
| Coombewood Fishery | |
| Redbrook Street, High Halden, Near Ashford TN26 33 | H 07895 679569 |
| Elphicks Fisheries Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden TN12 8EL | 01580 212512 |
| Eureka Fishery | 01360 212312 |
| Nicholas Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN25 4AG | 07597 879621 |
| Furnace Brook Fishery and Fish Farm | 0/33/ 0/3021 |
| Trolliloes, Cowbeech, near Hailsham BN27 4QR | 01435 830835 |
| Gabriels Fishery | 01433 030033 |
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| Greenacres Farm Fishery | 07750 000000 |
| Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden TN27 8EH | 07933 934942 |
| Hawkhurst Fish Farm | |
| Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT | 01580 753813 |
| Horam Manor Fishery | |
| • | 889 / 07707 759364 |
| Horsmonden Lakes | |
| Grovehurst Road, Horsmonden TN12 8BQ | 01892 838576 |
| Iden Wood Fishery | |
| Coldharbour Lane, Iden, Rye TN31 7UT 01797 280 | 180 / 07906 232225 |
| Knightingales Fishery | |
| Stone-In-Oxney, Near Tenterden TN30 7HA | 07941 176205 |
| Mousehole Lakes Maidstone Road | |
| Nettlestead, Near Paddock Wood ME18 5HR | 07725 783405 |
| Orchard Place Farm Fishery | 01002 020576 |
| Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood TN12 6NY Pittlands Lakes | 01892 838576 |
| Churn Lane, Horsmonden, Paddock Wood TN12 8HL | 07716 065900 |
| Sandwich Lakes Coarse Fishery | 07710 003900 |
| Sandwich Ash Road (A257), Near Canterbury CT3 2D | A 07936 409912 |
| Shirkoak Fishery | 7. 0,000 100011 |
| Bethersden Road, Woodchurch, Ashford TN26 3PZ | 07973 410973 |
| The Lakes at Beachborough Beachborough Park | |
| Newington, Near Folkestone CT18 8BW | 07469 809877 |
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| Chris Brown Products | 01892 723670 |
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| NJ Tackle | 01323 040003 |
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| Orchard Tackle | |
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| Pinions Baits 431 London Road, Ditton, Aylesford ME20 6DB | 01622 718580 |
| Polegate Angling Centre | 01022 / 18380 |
| Unit 7, Birch Industrial Estate, Eastbourne BN23 6PH | 01323 486379 |
| Romney Angling | |
| 59, High Street, New Romney TN28 8AH | 01797 362889 |
| Sheppey Angling, Unit 5, Regis Business Park | 04705 664000 |
| New Road, Sheerness, Kent ME12 1HA South London Angling Centre | 01795 661089 |
| 286 Lee High Road, London SE13 5PJ | 0208 852 4451 |
| | |

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01273 933050

Angling Clubs & Societies

251 Watling Street, Dartford DA2 6EG

Trade In Tackle Maidstone Road

Wateringbury ME18 5EH

Falkenvil Fishery, Saltmarsh Lane, Hailsham BN27 2RJ

Bromley (Kent) & District AS PO Box 895, East Grinstead RH19 9ND

Email: bdas-kent-enquiry@bdaskent.co.uk

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01322 292400

Cinder Hill Fly Fishing 01892 770903

Membership available from email: r.nathan@btinternet.com

Hastings Bexhill & District

Sussex Bait Developments

The Tackle Box

Postal enquiries to S.Corke, 2, The Sidings, Bexhill On Sea TN40 1RF

Chris Pagan **07429 655237** / Steve Potter **07935 268174**

Linton Angling Society Jason Tuckey on 07983 569220 or email lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk

Tonbridge & District A & FPS

PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB Martyn 07802 248861 Wantsum Angling Association 01227 678063

or contact via website www.wantsumaa.co.uk

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