MAY 202

# FRESHWATER & INFORMER &





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#### Hello and welcome to the May edition of the Freshwater Informer

t seems that Mother Nature is a fickle mistress and continues to tempt us with glimpses of spring and better days to come, then without warning the heavens open, the night-time temperatures plummet and we find ourselves back

in the gloom filled dirge of winter, soaking wet and freezing cold.

However, these ever changing conditions didn't deter anglers from lining the banks of the regions many superb fisheries over the Easter weekend, which for many people marks the beginning of the fishing year. In addition, since the April issue the somewhat optimistically named 'British Summer Time' has started. Whilst I'm fairly certain that this was named more in hope than expectation, it does bring a little more light to otherwise dull days and as the daylight hours begin to extend so my optimism for the spring and summer months grows. Time will tell if it's misplaced or not!

Something we can be encouraged by is that, despite living in an age where vicariously living through technology is increasingly the norm, there are still good numbers of younger people showing an interest and wanting to get into our sport. It is vital that we,

as anglers, fisheries and clubs support this if we wish to see angling, and young people themselves, continue to flourish. There are some great organisations that dedicate a huge amount of time and effort to the regions youth. Fishing For Schools, who held a very successful fund raiser at Brick Farm Trout Fishery recently, Kids In Mind Angling Adventures and Get Fishing to name but three. Venues such as Coombewood Fishery and Hawkhurst Junior Lakes offer the perfect introduction to angling but as individuals we should always take the opportunity to help if we can. Knowledge becomes wisdom when shared.

Hopefully there's a little wisdom to be gleaned from this issue, whichever discipline within the sport you follow. Jake Dadswell



looks back at a very successful river season, Bob Rolph talks of his interests in waterways outside of angling, Warren White talks of his work with local schools and how some of the skills gained through fishing transfer into the wider world. Andy Lush covers an exceptional few days fishing and cover star Luke Stone reveals the tactics that led to the capture of the King of the lake. We take a look at a simple approach to tench fishing and many readers share their successes, and the tactics that led to them.

As I finish writing this introduction a new day is dawning outside my window and the world already seems like a better place. The sun is shining, the birds are singing and maybe my optimism is not so misplaced after all.

Tight Lines, Alex Coutts & Lee Nicoll



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#### Richard smashes Personal Best

**Richard Steel** visited **Orchard Place Farm** to land a new **PB** in the shape of this 25lbs 7ozs common. A simple hair rig with a size 6 hook, baited with a pineapple wafter and fished in conjunction with robin red and krill pellets in PVA mesh was the successful tactic.



#### Chaotic common for Steve

**Steve Mack** had a chaotic 24hrs at **Mousehole Lakes**. Fishing peg 13 into a channel between two islands, he landed two fish. Firstly an upper double mirror and then this immaculate common which spun the needle a few ounces past the magical 30lbs barrier. Both fish fell to solid bags with DNA PB pop ups.



#### Surface caught thirty for Elvis

**Tricklebrook Fishery** regular **Elvis Reed** is no stranger to big fish. As well as lending his name to the biggest fish in New Lake (see centre pages) he's also been getting amongst the large carp in Old Lake and sent in this report;

I fished a 24hr session on the Old Lake at Tricklebrook and it was the first session of the year with my good luck charm Emma (wife). I was surface fishing with floating pellet and drifting the bait down towards the snags in the wind to try to draw the fish out.







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- 3. NO NUTS OR PARTICLE
- 4. BOILIE AND PELLET ONLY FOR SPECIMEN AND BACK LAKE ALL BAIT WILL BE INSPECTED.
- 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
- 7. NO SACKING OR RETAINING OF FISH IS PERMITTED. THE REMOVAL OF FISH FROM THIS VENUE WILL BE VIEWED AS A CRIMINAL ACT
- 8. EACH ANGLER MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF 42 INCH LANDING NET AND A LARGE PADDED UNHOOKING MAT/CRADLE REGARDLESS OF TARGET SPECIES ON SPECIMEN AND BACK LAKE
- 9. BARBLESS HOOKS ONLY
- 10. NO LEAD CORE, NO FUSED LEADERS OF ANY KIND INCLUDING SAFEZONE

- 11. NO FIXED LEAD RIGS. ALL LEADS MUST PASS FREELY OVER LEADER KNOTS. RIG CHECKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT
- 12. RECREATIONAL DRUGS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IMMEDIATE BAN FOLLOWS
- 13. PLEASE INFORM FISHERY MANAGEMENT OF ANY SNAGGED TACKLE OR FISH
- 14. ANY FISH OVER 28LB MUST BE REPORTED TO BAILIFF
- 15. NO DOGS ALLOWED
- 16. BARBECUES ALLOWED IF OFF THE GROUND
- 17. NO BAIT BOATS
- **18.** FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY OF THE RULES WILL RESULT IN BEING ASKED TO LEAVE AND/OR BANS WHERE APPROPRIATE AND NO REFUND WILL BE OFFERED.
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- 20. ALL RUBBISH TO BE TAKEN HOME

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#### **Beaver Fishery** Lingfield, Surrey

Well, as of writing this report, the weather has changed a tad. Although we have suffered again from high winds and plenty of rain there is definitely a feeling that warmer weather is on its way. We actually had a half decent long bank holiday weather wise until Mother Nature realised and on bank holiday Monday she reverted back to her normal self and dumped a massive amount of rain on us. As for the fishing, it seems the fish are properly waking up now. Here are a few reports.

Snipe Lake has seen a few fish banked and we've had a few PBs and firsts this month. Dave Russell had a 26lbs 8ozs mirror and a 27lbs 2ozs common, Lucas Tricker has unlocked the code to Snipe Lake and has banked mirrors at 17lbs, a couple of 23's, a PB 28lbs mirror then broke his PB again with a 28lbs 5ozs common, Andy Codrington banked his first fish on Snipe Lake which was a 21lbs 10ozs mirror then had a 16lbs 9ozs common while his buddy Billy Snape also had his first fish from Snipe Lake in the shape of a 16lbs 5ozs common, Liam Hall was back and banked mirrors at 17lbs 12ozs and 23lbs and a 25lbs 12ozs common, Martin Cassar gave us a try and he banked a 27lbs 4ozs mirror and a 27lbs 8ozs common on his first session then









came back and banked 2 mirrors of 17lbs 4ozs and 23lbs 14ozs, **Bob Morris** banked his first one too when he landed a mirror of 18lbs 12ozs, **Sam Hewwitt** had a 28lbs 6ozs common, **John Champion's** first visit of the year resulted in a 19lbs 14ozs mirror, **Matt Dawson's** first visit on Snipe Lake saw him land 16lbs 8ozs fully scaled mirror, an 18lbs mirror and a 28lbs 5ozs mirror, **Alex Shepherd** broke his **PB** 3 times in one session when he banked a 18lb mirror, a 29lb common, a 30lb common then Hayley's Mirror paid him a visit at 37lbs while his brother **Jack** banked a 24lbs common, **Phil Clegg** had a 21lbs mirror. **Ian York** continues his

great form this month and has banked fish on each session lately. He has banked mirrors of 19lbs 6ozs, 19lbs 8ozs, 22lbs 4ozs, 28lbs 8ozs, 28lbs 9ozs and a new **PB** of 35lbs 12ozs and commons of 15lbs 13ozs, 16lbs 8ozs, 23lbs 6ozs and 28lbs 9ozs. Our very own Ben got out and banked his first Snipe Lake carp of the year when he slipped the net over a lovely 22lbs 4ozs mirror.

Westlake has seen the cats waking up too with Liam Masters first visit to us seeing him bank cats at 27lbs, 37lbs and 41lbs and then he had a 61lber, Nathan Thomas had cats to a new PB of 62lbs 7ozs, Chris Streeter on a day session had cats of 30lbs 8ozs and 58lbs 8ozs, also on a day session, Chris Bacon had cats of 25lbs, 29lbs 8ozs and 33lbs, Dave Osbourne had 3 cats in a day to 50lbs, Csaba Erdos had a new PB of 62lbs, Nick Beevis had 7 cats to 44lbs while his partner Tammy Morris had a 27lbs 6ozs and Alan Teakle got his cat fishing year off to a good start with 8lbs, 16lbs, 32lbs and 52lbers.



**Jeff's Lake** has still been producing some of the new carp we recently stocked as well as bream and silvers but the F1's have been caught in abundance for some. A few examples of this are **Les Parker** banking 25 F1's, 4 bream, a small mirror and a 10lbs common, **Lawrence Marden** banked 26 F1's, 23 bream and 2 mirrors as well as a bonus pike that we moved to Majors Lake but the pick of the bunch is **Callum Hutchins** who banked 91 F1's and a ghost common.





Daughters Lake has seen more fish this month, a few that have let us know are Jordan Muthukrishnar who banked a 16lbs mirror, Alex Herbert had a mid double mirror and a 21lbs grassie, Callum Bushby had a 14lbs grassie, Ricky B had a low double mirror, Paul Owen banked a 12lbs 2ozs grassie, Jason Swift banked a stunning 16lbs 8ozs mirror, Wayne Jones had a 12lbs common and a 16lbs 4ozs mirror while his mate Daniel Hayne banked his first Beaver fish in the shape of a 23lbs mirror and Chris Shepherd kept his run going when he banked commons of 10lbs 12ozs and 16lbs 3ozs and mirrors at 14lbs 2ozs and 16lbs 3ozs and Al Randall banked his first Daughters Lake carp at 15lbs 6ozs.

**Eden Pond** has seen plenty of day anglers getting amongst the tench, small carp and a few nice perch have been banked too. **Maze Lake** has seen a few day anglers on there this month and the majority of them have been banking small carp, F1's and some rather nice bream.

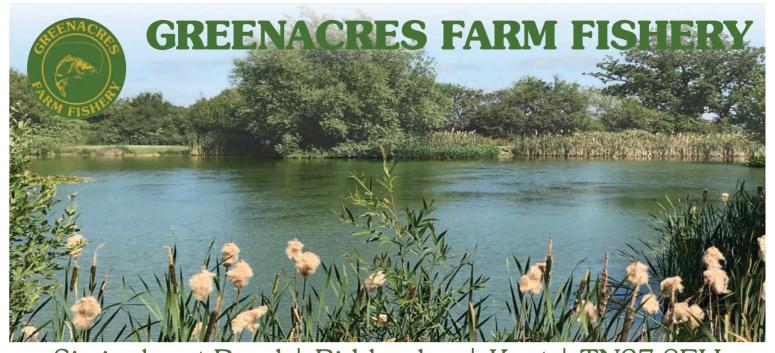
Majors Lake has seen a lot of carp banked, Terry Edwards continued his good form on there when he banked 2 bream including a monster 8lbs 4ozs PB, mirrors at 11lbs 4ozs, 11lbs 6ozs and 12lbs 2ozs and a 14lbs ghostie, Tom Fezcuk had a 19lbs 10ozs

common and his mate **Toby Collister** had a low double common, a 5lbs F1 and a 19lbs 4ozs mirror, **Lucas Tricker** banked 7 carp to 16lbs, **Paul Owen** had a 7lbs mirror and a **PB** 13lbs ghostie while

his wife **Claire** had 4 bream and a 13lbs 7ozs mirror, young **James Taylor** banked four lovely looking carp to 18lbs and his mate **Callum Clayton** had a 13lbs mirror, **Peter Biesiaga** had 8 bream and 3 carp to a new **PB** of 11lbs, **Bob Morris** banked a 5lbs tench and a 12lbs 9ozs mirror, **Ryan Flint** had a 10lbs mirror and a 18lbs fully scaled mirror and his mate **Callum McNeil** had 2 carp to low doubles, **Steve Thompson** had two commons at 9lbs 6ozs and 10lbs 8ozs and a 14lbs 9ozs mirror and **Adam Miller** who was on his first visit to us banked 2 carp to a 25lbs mirror.







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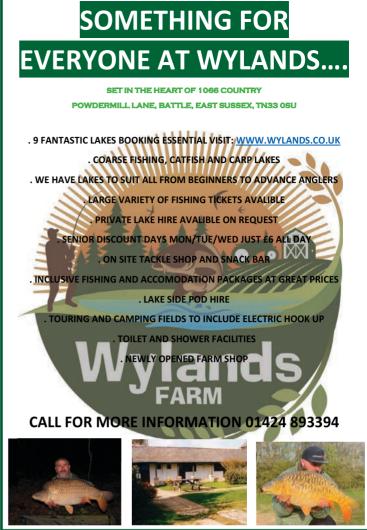


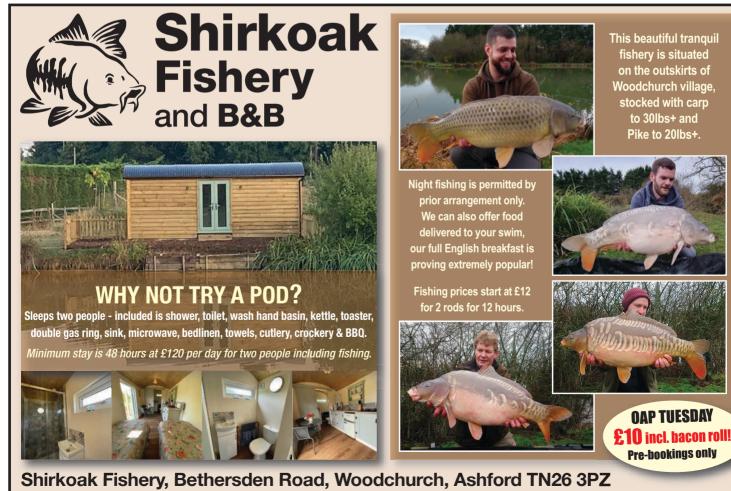
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For most seasoned anglers, breaking a personal best is something that only happens once in a blue moon, so to smash two pb's in a day is exceptional to say the least! This is exactly what happened when **Richard Tremain** visited Cackle Hill fishery for a trip with his friend, **Simon Mitchell**.

A 5am wake-up call resulted in this tremendously deep bodied mirror carp of 45lbs and a new **PB**.



As if that wasn't enough, whilst reflecting on his achievement, Richard's other rod roared into life and after a torrid battle he landed his second pb of the day in the shape of this monstrous catfish of over 75lbs.





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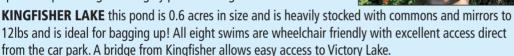
We can offer our visitors six coarse fishing lakes containing a variety of fish from silver fish to specimen carp. Matches and fishing lessons can be arranged by contacting our Fishery Manager Kevin Killeen.



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#### Couldens Farm Fishery catch

Bob with a nice 3lbs 15ozs crucian carp





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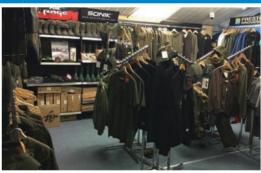
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Diary of a River Angler

#### Jake Dadswell

With the proliferation of day ticket and syndicate waters in the southeast, our regions rivers are all too often overlooked. Which is a shame because, whilst the fishing can be very challenging, the rewards are there for those prepared to put in the effort. Sussex based fisherman Jake Dadswell reflects on his season...



My first trip was on June 16th, the first day of the season, heading out to a local river with light perch tackle to see what I could find. Lure fishing is a great way of covering ground and exploring lots of swims and I managed to find a few hungry perch which were keen on taking small spinners or drop shotted lures. Its always nice to get off the mark.



A few weeks went by and I decided to head out in search of a chub. Sussex rivers aren't known for really large chub, unlike the Hampshire Avon or Dorset Stour, but there's always a chance of a nice fish. Even smaller chub can be great fun on light tackle with small lures and although the average size wasn't going to break any records, I did manage the occasional better fish.

Although it now seems like a distant memory, last summer was incredibly hot and one day whilst walking the banks I spotted two shadows swimming towards me. With my polarized glasses on, I stood back and sat quietly waiting to see what they were. Two decent size carp swam straight past me, then I saw 3 other small carp basking in the sun. I knew I had to head back the next day and see if I could track them down. Armed with my floater gear, I was soon back at the waters edge. River carp can be very nomadic and may travel many miles in a day but can also be creatures of habit and have regular haunts that they favour. After walking for a good while and seeing sight nor sound of them I decided that the best course of action would be to wait where I had seen them the day before and see if they would return.

As is so often the case, just as I was on the verge of calling it a day I spotted a group of shapes cruising up towards me.

Leading the way was a large, dark common. Barely daring to breath I lowered a single piece of crust upstream of the fish. Without hesitation the carp came straight up and took it. I struck and pulled it straight back out of his mouth!

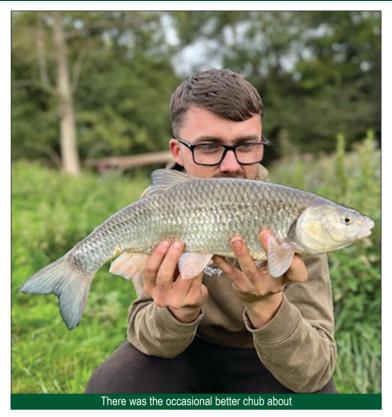
The common charged off in a flurry of spray and knowing what I missed, I sulked for a bit (as we all do).

Thinking my chance was over I walked further up river and found the previous days group of small commons. With nothing to lose I thought that I would have a go for them and regain some pride. But they weren't interested in feeding at all and resisted all of my efforts to tempt them. Unbelievably, I was so focused on trying to catch these small carp that I failed to notice the big common slowly cruise back into the swim. None the worse for wear, after its earlier experience, it forced its way through the smaller carp and engulfed the bait.

This time there were no mistakes and after an intense battle I landed a scale perfect, genuine river monster. At 26lbs 12ozs I was absolutely buzzing. What a fish!









Hot summer days had given way to torrential rain and the rivers went from one extreme to the other as I moved my efforts more towards predators. I really struggled up until Christmas. After that I managed a few good sessions resulting in many doubles and loads of small jacks then before I knew it was the last weekend before the season ended.

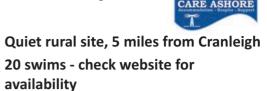
The rain was still falling and the rivers chocolate brown but I decided to risk it and head down to royal military canal. After a few swim moves with nothing happening, I had a take on one rod as I was playing that pike the other rod went. A double take! The bigger of the two weighing 16lb 5oz, the other one a small jack.

What a way to end the season!









**Springbok Fishery** 

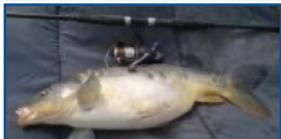
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#### **FULLY FUNCTIONING LAKE 13 - CARP & CATFISH WATER**

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.

FOOD IS AVAILABLE ON SITE FROM MID-MARCH TO OCTOBER

MATCH/ PLEASURE LAKES

DAY TICKETS 2 RODS - £10 CONCESSIONS 1 ROD - £8

#### 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.



running water, wash basin and toilet

## 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



Tricklebrook Fishery has a well earned reputation for containing plenty of hard fighting, specimen sized carp. A fact that wasn't lost on Luke Stone, friend Joe and their respective partners, as they arrived for a 24hr session on the fisheries New Lake.

A slow lap of the lake didn't produce any sightings or signs of fish, so after I unloading their fishing gear from their cars, the group settled on a couple of swims that gave a good view of the lake and would allow them to react to any potential opportunities.

The first challenge in any session is to find the fish and with nothing concrete to go on, Luke decided to split his options and search out different ranges and depths in front of him, fishing two rods on the bottom and a third with a zig rig set-up to explore the upper layers. This early in the year carp can still be quite lethargic and very often will shoal up around an area that they feel comfortable in, unwilling to move around much to feed.

These areas can be so subtle in nature that unless you very familiar with a water finding them can prove incredibly frustrating. The smallest difference in a lakes topography can have the biggest difference on your success. Most anglers are aware that carp like to hide out near snags but on waters without these obvious features, location becomes even more critical. It might be an area with a tiny increase or reduction of depth, a spot on the back of the wind that catches more spring sunshine or a narrow band of water above a thermocline. Ultimately, it comes down to how much effort an angler is prepared to put in to make it happen. Sit and wait at your leisure!

With no action forthcoming and a lot of head scratching between Luke and Joe, a change of approach was called for. To the left of Luke's swim was an undisturbed margin, catching the afternoon sun. A prime spot for intercepting a hungry spring carp. Introducing some freebies onto the spot he continued to persevere with his zig and roving tactics, all the while keeping a close eye on the margin spot for any signs of activity.

After about an hour he noticed the occasional bubble and small plumes of silt over his bait. Very quietly he reeled in one of his bottom rig rods, re-baited the slip D rig with a A2 70/30 wafter and carefully lowered it onto the spot. Almost immediately the rod was away and after a spirited fight, Luke was able to net a 13lbs common. Not one of the large carp that Tricklebrook is famed for, but proof that he was on the right track with the change of tactics.



Repeating the process resulted in another mid double common picking up the hookbait a short while later.

Short, intense feeding spells are very much a feature of spring carp fishing and its vital to capitalise on them to avoid missing out on potential fish.



**FRESHWATER** 

Introducing a handful more bait, Luke once again lowered his rig onto the spot, making sure to keep his mainline from crossing the baited patch and spooking any feeding fish. Unbelievably, just a short time later the alarm on his left hand rod sprung into life and the rod tip heaved over. This time however, instead of the skittish fight of a double, Luke's strike was met by the heavy, deep plodding of an obviously bigger carp. Rather than strip line from the reel, the fish hugged the bottom, using its weight to resist. Steady pressure saw the fish grudgingly give ground and slowly let itself be led back along the margin to the waiting net.

Nestled in the mesh was a fish clearly bigger than Luke's existing personal best of 28lbs 9ozs but how much bigger was a shock to the whole group.

With everything prepared, the fish was carefully moved from the waters edge to the unhooking mat where the true bulk of the carp was revealed. A group effort in the weighing had everyone agreeing on a final weight of 36lbs 2ozs. A new PB by nearly 8lbs and Luke's first thirty to boot!



With the pictures completed and the fish returned there was a chance to sit back and reflect on the events of the previous couple of hours. Subtle changes can have a massive impact in carp fishing and nothing proves that more than going from 'not a touch' to three fish, including the lakes biggest resident, in little more than two hours.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, with all the commotion, the fish had moved off the margin spot but Luke persisted and shortly before leaving the following morning was rewarded with one last carp. A distinctive one eyed mirror of 22lbs 4ozs.

As the group packed up their gear they were visited by the bailiff who confirmed that Luke's fish was indeed the biggest known fish in the lake and nicknamed 'Elvis' after a previous captor.



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:

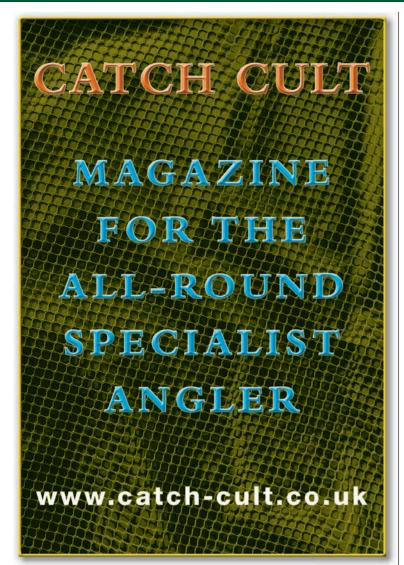
Maidstone Road, Wateringbury ME18 5EH (opposite the railway station on the B2015)

01622 814296 or 07941 085011

A warm welcome and a great deal awaits you!

IF SELLING. PLEASE PHONE BEFORE VISITING





#### A Red Letter Day

**Dave Wayman** had an incredible day session on a local club water. Fishing a waggler float, Dave managed to catch consistently throughout the day accounting for no less than 53 tench, up to 3lbs, and 7 Crucian Carp.



Iden Wood Fishery

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

#### Hawkhurst Fish Farm

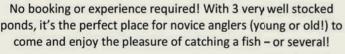
Hastings Road, Hawkhurst, Kent, TN18 4RT T: 01580 753813 E: info@hawkhurstfishfarm.co.uk





#### Junior Coarse Fishing

Open 10am – 5pm, 7 days a week.



We've got everything covered, from equipment hire to rod licences, and our water bailiff will be there to offer assistance.









Check www.hawkhurstfishfarm.co.uk for more info!







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

f

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



We are a commercial day ticket fishery and have 2 Specimen Lakes, 3 Coarse Lakes and 3 Ponds.

Open 7am - 7pm Summer time and 7am - 6pm Winter time. Day ticket, overnight and long stays welcome.

#### Facilities include:

On Site Tackle Shop

12 Car Parks including
Disabled Friendly Parking

Shower/Wetroom

**Disabled Friendly Toilets** 

Seasonal Snack Bar with Hot and Cold Food

2 huts available for hire



Concessionary Tickets for Junior, Disabled and OAPs

No pre-bookings taken for swims

Win a FREE SESSION with our Fish of the Month Competition

Automatic Security Gates that close at 7pm (Summer) 6pm (Winter)

24-hour CCTV

## the lift float method - a simple approach to tench fishing

With their beady red eyes, tiny smooth scales and huge spade like tails, tench are unique amongst our native species. Referred to as 'doctor fish' in the past, it was thought that sick fish of other species would rub against their distinctive slime covered flanks to rid themselves of ailments. Myth and legend aside, in angling terms the tench is viewed very much as a early season fish and although bottom feeders that can be targeted with a range of tactics from guiver tipping to pva bags and bolt rigs, nothing sums up spring angling better than misty mornings spent watching a float, as lily pads quiver and tremble and the tench go about their daily lives.

Lift Float fishing has to be the quintessential tench method. The technique involves overshotting the float so it's anchored to the lakebed. When a fish sucks in the hookbait it picks up the splitshot causing the float to lift then lay flat on the surface.

It's a great way of avoiding line bites as tench grub around on the bottom but does require some 'mental gymnastics' to adjust to striking when your float lifts rather than dips!

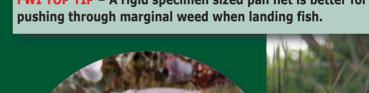
**SWIM SELECTION** Weed beds and lily pads are favourite haunts of tench. Look for channels and openings that give you a good chance of both intercepting them and landing any fish you hook. In weed-free waters, tench will often patrol along the marginal shelf barely a rod length off the bank. Dawn and dusk are the prime times for a bite. FWI TOP TIP - feeding tench cause

#### SUITABLE TACKLE

Tench are very strong fighters and will make light work of thin hooklinks and soft rods. Add weed beds and lilies to the equation and it's clear you need some backbone in your set-up. Rods of 1.5lb - 1.75lb tc are ideal. Depending on the size of fish and amount of weed mainline should be no less than 6lb b/s.

plumes of tiny bubbles to erupt on the surface, giving away their presence.

FWI TOP TIP - A rigid specimen sized pan net is better for





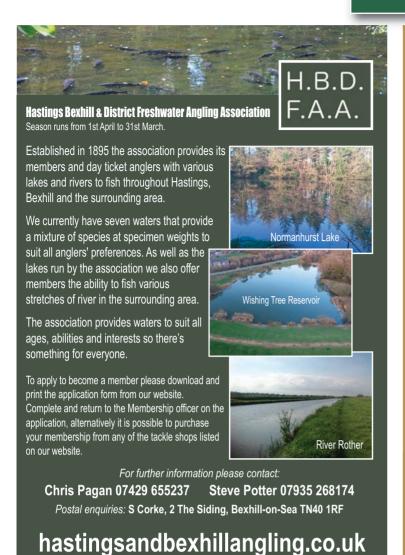
END TACKLE Traditionally a porcupine quill was the float of choice but these are rarely available now. Instead an antenna float with a sight tip or a plain waggler is more common. For a float taking 3BB shot use two BB weights to lock the float in place then replace the third bb with a AAA shot about an inch from the hook. Adjust the depth so that the float stands proud in the water. When a fish picks up the bait the float will lift, then tip over. That's the time to strike. Hook size should be matched to the bait. For maggots and sweetcorn size 10/12 for bread, meat and worms 6/8

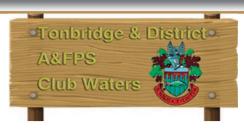
FWI TOP TIP - For shy biting fish, set the float so the tip is just breaking the surface and strike as soon as it begins to lift.

FRESHWATER



#### **Angling Societies**





#### 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

www.lintonangling.co.uk

#### Pole fishing at Pittlands

Freddy Beaney is proving himself to be a very accomplished all-rounder. Readers may recall that over the winter months Freddy had a very successful predator campaign on the rivers,



Now that the river season has ended he has turned his attention to stillwaters. Over the course of a couple of visits to Pittlands Lakes, Freddy has been using a pole to good effect and landing a wide variety of species, including this specimen crucian carp and a surprise catfish hooked tight to the margins on a worm and landed on a tiny size 18 hook.

#### **Junior Informer**







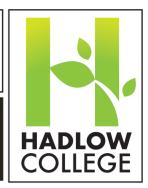








25 Southwick Square Southwick BN42 4FP 01273 592903





Despite his young age, **Ramzi Sayer** was already an accomplished carp angler with a very impressive PB of 27lbs 2ozs before his latest trip to Monks Lake, with dad Michael, for a 48hr session. Using a CarpBasics ocean fruit boilie, with yellow topper over a bed of maize he hooked this huge common carp, that after a tremendous fight, catapulted 8yr old Ramzi straight into the thirties club at a magnificent weight of 30lbs 5ozs.



7yr old **Aria** might only have been fishing for 7 months but she's already proved that she has a knack for it. On a recent trip to Mousehole Lakes Aria caught 41 fish from a few ounces to 7lbs.



**Oscar Lucas** smashed his PB with this 24lbs mahogany coloured carp from a tricky club water



Corey Church had a productive 3-hour session on Hastings beach catching dogfish on sandeel wrapped in lug.



Freddie Cause 12lbs 4ozs mirror carp



**Albie Shanahan** with his first ever ghost carp



Ollie Gates had 25 fish in total from Sam's lakes, including 8 carp. The 5yr old caught his fish on dog biscuits and boilies.



Maddie Hawkins managed to smash her PB three times in one day with fish of 18lbs 6ozs, 20lbs 7ozs and finally 22lbs 8ozs with a total catch of 27 fish from Quarry Lake at Hawkhurst Fish Farm.



10yr old Olivia Owen caught 13 carp in 24 hours including this new PB at 10lbs.



Sid, 11lbs mirror carp, Monks Lake



You may have already seen the incredible brace shot that Casey Hogben shared with her dad Ben, elsewhere in the magazine. Not content with her common, Casey also had this lovely looking 21lbs 8ozs mirror. Casey mounted half a red energy gooed up popup onto a trimmed down krill bottom bait to form a snowman which tripped the carp up on this occasion.



Harrington Blowers put his Freshwater Informer beanie to good use helping him brave the elements on a chilly day trip to Tricklebrook Fishery. Despite the cool conditions, the fish found Harrington's hookbaits of pellets and flavoured spam to their liking and he caught plenty of hard fighting carp.



Beau Howell,13, became the latest member of the twenties club with a 24lbs 3ozs common landed from Basils Lake at Darenth on a pineapple pop up.



Oli Holewell, aged 13, had a session to remember ar Orchard Place Farm, catching not one, but two new PBs. Firstly a catfish of 17lbs and then a lovely deep bodied common carp of 19lbs.



#### May update

#### by instructor Warren White

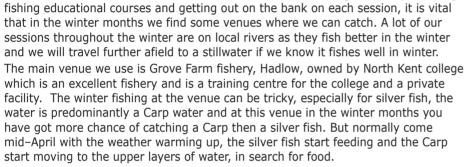


My Angling coaching work is really varied, I work twice a week at Rowhill, SEN, school, Longfield, employed by the school. I also work for Fishing for

Schools, a great Charity, mainly with their Mental health and disability groups and also a few schools. I am really lucky that fishing is my hobby and passion, so I am one of those people that

love going to work.

Now spring is here and we have got over what seems a long winter, hopefully we can look forward to some good fishing. Because I work with school students throughout the year doing



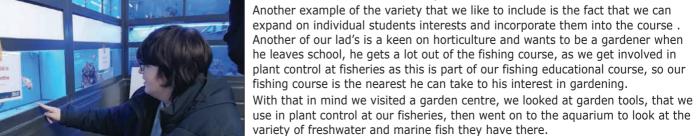
Something I have learnt from the water, is that if the Carp, are up in the water that's where you need to fish, if you want to be successful. When I first started fishing the water, many years ago, my preference was feeder fishing, mainly because I liked fishing that style and at first it was really successful. Over the years it has become clear that the fish are far more inclined to feed much higher in the water and, apart from the odd fish caught on the feeder, fishing on top or up in the water, pellet waggler style will certainly catch you more fish.



We like to cover all aspects of fishing as part of our courses and a recent session at Grove farm, Hadlow, with the boys from Rowhill school was a good example of this. We started in the classroom, looking at rigs and how to attach baits using the pellet band, quick stop and old hair loop, I like to use the quick stop, but it must be



drilled properly first, or the plastic quick stop gets damaged using hard baits. Then we went on to put the lesson into practice at the lake . One lad had a great session on the Pole and corn and other boys who plumbed up properly and fished on the bottom also caught carp. The Carp are just waking up after a cold winter and we caught mainly on the bottom, but in the next few weeks when the weather warms, the fish will be up in the water.







It helps demonstrate the overlap between fishing and fish keeping, lake maintenance and gardening and the fact that many of the skills that the boys learn are transferable into a number of real world scenarios.



My childhood holidays in Devon saw me glued to the river bridges over the Taw and Teign looking for wild brown trout, and one day dreaming of catching one. My first fish on rod and line were in fact brown trout, but caught from below the small weirs on the River Darent in Kent, and then small roach beside disused locks on the River Medway near Yalding (Stone Bridge Lock). As young kids, we camped and fished beside most of the 14 locks on the River Medway. Catching Roach and Dace by day and Bream and Eels at night. There was very little boat traffic in those far off days, but I did acquire a Medway lock gate sluice key, and offered to help any passing boat or barge, eagerly operating the gates and sluices in my capacity as honorary lock keeper for the day!

I graduated to the Thames in latter years and did once own a boat where most of the 42 locks and weirs were navigated and fished. I had great catches of pike on plugs from around the old wooden gates and below the weirs, long before automation and resident lock keepers put a stop to all of that, and fishing was banned for youngsters around the dangerous flowing weirs pools. The middle reaches of the Grand Union Canal were my next venue when fishing for eels around the Northampton and Rugby areas during the late 60s. Old locks, tunnels and stone bridges proved successful fishing spots at night, and they still fascinate me all these years later. Coal barges still used to ply their trade up and down between Birmingham and Brentford, long before canal boat holidays became so popular in the 1980s.

In more recent years, in my retirement, since largely hanging up my rods, my wife and I have graduated to rather larger waterways! The Suez Canal has no locks, unbelievably going from the Med to the Red Sea with only a fall of a few feet, we have done that in both directions. But it is the Panama Canal which holds the candle for monumental engineering works, built between 1904 and 1914 and again in 2016 at a cost of many billions of dollars.

There are 12 massive locks on the original Panama Canal, 3 pairs going up and 3 pairs coming down. Locks so large that they can hold a pair of 75,000 tonne cruise or container ships in pairs in both directions. In between these locks 85 feet above sea level is a huge freshwater lake (Gatun Lake) containing alligators, and all sorts of man eating creatures in the sweltering heat. Malaria was a problem with the mosquitoes 110 years ago, and thousands of workers died constructing



A double lock on the Panama Canal

the canal, which was largely a French project. Today it takes a full day to transverse this amazing waterway from the Pacific to the Caribbean, and is about 50 miles long. Our travels have included this 'wonder of the world' several times in the past 30 years, and it never ceases to amaze me.

Ships today are now so large and wide that the original 1908 canal is too small to accommodate them, so around 10 years ago a series of new much wider locks were built right next to the old ones, to handle the new PanaMax container ships and 200,000 tonne cruise liners. It costs over a quarter of a million pounds to use the canal, for an average cruise ship, but saves so many weeks sailing around Cape Horn and S. America. All based on gross tonnage and passenger capacity.

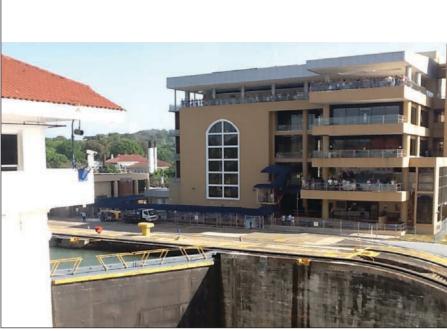
The Panama Canal is a tourist destination in itself, with grandstands available beside the locks for viewing, and it runs day and night 365 days a year, to watch the 'mules' pulling the

ships through some times with less than 6 inches clearance on both side!

The 'Mules' do not eat carrots, just diesel! Many a green tourist has been caught with this one, It really is a wonder of the world. (On reflection, they may be electric nowadays) but there were donkeys when it first opened!

Last year we discovered another canal and river trip to rival the Panama Canal, in the Rhine, Danube and Main canal expedition which transversed 5 countries and has only been possible since 1992.

Before that date it was not possible to travel by ship or boat from the North Sea to the Black Sea, a distance of 2350 miles, but in 1962 a 2.3 billion investment by Germany, Hungary and the emerging EU, saw the start of a vast construction project to link the middle reaches of the Rhine with the Middle reaches of the Danube with a new canal diverting the River Main to canalise it around the city of Bamberg in Germany. This new waterway linked 6 countries, Holland, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia and Romania to the



Viewing galleries overlook the locks

Black Sea and beyond. It revolutionised the transport of goods and coal, and now river cruise long boats and holiday travel. This new waterway rivalled the Panama Canal in its engineering prowess, but was hardly mentioned in the British Press, a project so vast that it transformed the area for tourism and goods. We joined our cruise ship 'Amavenita' in Budapest, and sailed north 1200 miles down to Amsterdam, past vast hillside vineyards, castles, capital cities and beer drinking towns in Austria and Germany. 68 huge locks and hundreds of bridges were passed during this trip, many at night, and it was



Home on the Danube

amazing to hear that we were once 1332 feet above sea level, in a lock holding 70 million ltrs of freshwater, near to the edge of the Austrian Alps. It is the highest point on earth that a sea going ship can reach from coast to coast.

Our trip was in late November and the famous Christmas markets were in full swing in cities like Vienna, Nuremberg and Bamberg, and they were well worth a visit, but the best were in smaller towns like Rothenburg and Regensburg, and many a deposit was lost on our colourful hot mulled wine mugs to add to our collection! Zander were frequently on the menu on the boat, and I was well aware that we were probably passing

directly over the backs of 200lbs Wels Catfish in the Danube and Main river. I didn't take my rods! Both rivers rise in the Alps, the Rhine flowing north and the Danube south, with the river Main, a major tributary which was partially canalised in 1992.



Bob's garden pond lock

The huge modern locks on the Main Canal, some 80 feet deep, have 4 differing types of gates. Some are traditional door gates as seen on our rivers and canals, but much larger. Some are vast sliding structures which disappear left to right into the side of the lock, some are half circular ones like on the Thames barrier, that rotate and you drive over them and some are vertical lifting barriers that you drive underneath.

All in all an amazing trip, and a must if you like rivers and locks! I only ever saw about 10 people fishing in all the 2 weeks we were on the rivers despite the water being full of Zander, Catfish, Roach and Barbel. The Germans were very friendly people, but seemed obsessed with Beer, Sausages and stories of the War!

## TROUT INFORMER

#### **Tenterden Trout Waters** Tenterden, Kent

Easter brought some great fishing at Tenterden and these 3 Anglers had a good Easter Sunday morning with us as you can see in the photo. The Fishery continues to fish well into mid-April and it is wonderful to finally see the weather change and lift everyone's spirits, we have all wanted the sun to shine.

May is one of my favourite months for trout fishing here and our 3 Lakes will be fully stocked with quality

Rainbows, Browns & Blues. Trout are currently feeding and there have been buzzer and sedge hatches. I would always have an intermediate line in your tackle bag when fishing here and 5 & 7 weight work well. The Trout continue to put up a great fight for our Anglers, we pride ourselves in stocking hard fighting fish. We stock Trout from 3lbs-14lbs and 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 which you can see in the photo below 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, £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. Tenterden Trout Waters is set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which you can see in the banner photo, in the Weald of Kent. A warm welcome awaits you.

Tight Lines – Gaynor, Richard & Audrey

#### Hazel Copse Trout Fishery Cooks Hill, Rudgwick, West Sussex, RH12 3AF

We are open as always even though Wilf (RIP) has gone, but his legacy is still open on the West Sussex Surrey border. 2 lakes stocked with rainbows browns and blues to over 5lbs. Regulars are catching their bags and are then able to continue fishing catch and release. Fishing is excellent, with semi deep slow retrieval of montanas and cats whisker delivering good results on both



A nice 7 fish bag...



Rainbow Trout Fully finned fish

lakes. We have toilets and undercover hut to dry off if required.

Contact Julie on 07591 373959 / 07849 061824 for more information.

Coombe Farm, Chennell Park Road Tenterden, Kent TN30 6XA We aim to provide an excellent day's sport in beautiful Wealden Countryside.

Day Permit £42 = 4 best fish
Half Day Permit £28 = 2 best fish
Catch & Release &

Junior Permits available. Regular stocking of top quality Rainbows, Browns & Blues to 12lbs TACKLE AVAILABLE TO HIRE TUITION BY APPOINTMENT

A TROUTMASTERS WATER
RANKED IN THE TOP 50 OF THE TOP 100 STILLWATER

Contact (01580) 763201



Spring has finally sprung! We are thrilled to be seeing not only the fish enjoying the conditions, but also happy anglers and small pops of colour from the flowering daffodils and tulips. Graham can be seen happily mowing paths and keeping the place looking neat, and the sun is meaning that many are now choosing to have their bacon baps outside on the decking overlooking Brick Lake.

We have been seeing nice Buzzer hatches and some nice takes to be had when left to move in the wind rather than on a slow retrieve. The log book shows good results on Bloodworms, Midges and Daddies. As you would expect for early Spring, Montana Nymphs and smaller Damsels are still catching well when there is a little cloud cover. Notable catches of recent include Brick Farm regular Steve Vidler who took home a nice 6lbs rainbow for a very happy dad's dinner! Also 18 year old **Ben Crowther** caught a 5lbs 13ozs Rainbow from Stag Lake on a Bloodworm.



Massive thanks go to everyone who came along or donated raffle prizes for our fundraising event for Fishing for Schools - Despite the forecasts, the weather was kind to us and everyone was smiling. The biggest fish was caught by young Henry Cullen weighing 5lbs 13ozs and the

best 3 fish bag weighed 12lbs 13ozs and was won by Terry Woodman. After £5 from each ticket, raffles, mini competitions and donations we are thrilled to have raised a total of £1,198 for Fishing for Schools money which will go a long way to support the amazing work the charity does and help to get young people out of the classroom and into the countryside, developing confidence and learning new skills.



#### **Cinder Hill Fly Fishing 2023**



Mid Sussex's premier private Stillwater Trout Fishery is now open for new membership (subject to availability). Cinder Hill Fly Fishing offers some of the region's most natural, unspoilt, affordable, friendly and top quality trout fishing in beautiful private surroundings.

We have 2 separate fisheries each with 3 stream fed lakes which are regularly stocked throughout the season with hard fighting top condition rainbow, brown & \*sparctic trout. \*New for 2023

- · Annual membership £310 (March-November)
- · 25 visits 3 fish limit
- · Guests welcome (uses 1 of your visits each time)
- · C&R on specified lakes (early season)

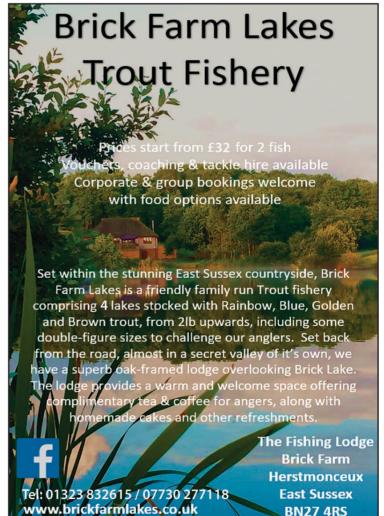
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With my local reservoir, Bewl Water open again, I've been able to enjoy the freedom of boat fishing. At this time of year, I adopt a static approach, rather than fishing on the drift. I choose to anchor up within easy casting distance of the downwind shoreline, as this is the most productive water to be fishing at the beginning of the season. Drifting requires the fish to be active enough to chase the flies, and as the target area is so tight to the bank, I'm often caught between fishing or starting the engine. The other advantage of anchoring is it allows me to hover my flies close to the bottom in the shallow water.

**Location** The shallow margins, often grassy banks, is where the food is, so that's where the fish are. Why? As the surface layers of water start warming, the wind pushes it downwind into the shore, and with this increased temperature the insect life multiplies rapidly.

**Technique** With most fish being fresh stockies, we have found they have preferred a moving fly, rather than static or suspended presentations. A fly that moves slowly and stays at a constant depth throughout the retrieve has been most effective. The fish have also shown a preference for flies with some colour, if the water isn't too coloured.

**The Fishing** Gary Collins joined me on my first outing to Bewl. It was a wet start, but for a change we only had a light breeze, just enough to create a ripple. We started near the 'children's playground', an area that always holds fish when the winds from the southwest. Gary was quickly into fish, using a combination of a coral booby - point, cormorant - middle, tequila blob - top, presented on an Airflo Di3. I started on a floating line, with an indicator and a team of nymphs suspended underneath. As Gary caught several more fish, and I failed to get any takes, it became obvious that they

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wanted to chase! Plan B, I quickly switched to the 'fast glass' intermediate with a Fulling Mill Kingfisher damsel - point and a FM marabou Diawl Bach - dropper. Once I got the right 'count down' for depth, I started catching too.

After catching several fish, we decided to move, as there was plenty of inviting water to explore elsewhere. Next stop, we dropped anchor near 'Hook house', instantly we were both into fish. Gary was getting his takes at the beginning of his cast, he was employing a steady 'figure eight' retrieve, with an occasional long smooth pull. I was getting lots of taps, and tensioning up, before getting a proper take. My retrieves were much slower than Gary's, I was sure the fish were following and mouthing my flies, until they changed direction, leaving the horizontal and started ascending towards the surface. This is where my depth markers on my fly line are useful, they alerted me to exactly when to expect a take. Fish after fish followed my flies, before falling to the directional change, lift, or hang!



FRESHWATER INFORMER

I was keen to explore some more so we left the fish and headed into 'seven-pound creek'. A couple of moves within the bay without a take saw us moving again, this time further up 'hook straight' to the 'top end'. I managed a fish there but wasn't convinced there were many more present. Another move saw us enter 'brown's inlet', again we anchored in a couple of spots but without any takes or signs of fish! Heading back down 'hook straight', we had to take a quick peek in 'Bryant's inlet', this little bay above the cages is very sheltered and often overlooked, still no signs of fish! We were getting anxious by now, as time was ebbing away. We had to return to our 'hot spot' near 'Hook house'. Instant action again, why had we left this spot? The rest seemed to have encouraged the fish to feed again. We continued catching and enjoyed the best early season sport either of us had ever experienced at Bewl!

#### Hanningfield Reservoir [CM3 8HX]

A return to Hanningfield was long overdue, it was somewhere my friends and I had thought about fishing again, but had been put on the 'back burner', as other reservoirs caught our attention. So why now? Well, I bumped into Charlie Coppolo, a ranger from Hanningfield who gave me the 'heads up' about 'Fly Fest', an event where fly anglers would have exclusive use of the reservoir, which coincided with the introduction of some HUGE trout.



I have to say it was too tempting to ignore, but the weather proceeding my visit looked daunting. All week there were gale force winds and rain! Finally, the day before my trip, the wind started to ease and the forecast for the following day predicted even lighter winds. Gary Collins and I arrived, 'bright and early', we were so excited to be back and with the prospect of tangling with a Hanningfield brute who could blame us!

As we left the shelter of 'lodge bay' we headed towards the point that leads to the nature reserve. There were plenty of buzzers hatching here, which encouraged us to fish this area. We were at the top of the wind, hardly drifting, so we didn't deploy the drogue. We were hoping the "hatch" would bring a few fish up in the water and if that was happening, we would see signs in the light ripple. I put up a floating line with two buzzers, while Gary opted for the 'indicator' with a team of buzzers. Our drift took us slowly down the shelf into deeper open water. As we left the shelter, I put the drogue out. By now we both decided to change our approach, as we hadn't seen any fish. We both switched to 'fast glass' intermediates. My flies were, Fulling Mill hot head damsel nymph - point,

cormorant on my single dropper. Gary had a black & green tadpole - point, cormorant - middle, blob - top. We headed to 'boundary bay' where the wind was pushing into the margin. A couple of drifts without a pull saw us on the move. We both thought our best chance would be in 'middlemead'. The wind was funnelling down into the bay, and it screamed FISH!

I had the first take, on the 'lift' at the end of the retrieve. I set the hook and felt something very heavy that at first, I thought could be an elusive Hanningfield pike. Slowly whatever I'd hooked woke up, and by the beat of its tail I knew it was a big trout. The boat by now had picked up speed, as the wind increased. I guickly wound all my spare fly line onto the reel, to prevent any tangles. Then I asked Gary to swap positions in the boat and start the engine. It wasn't easy but we managed the manoeuvre without either of us falling in! Next Gary brought the drogue into the boat, as there was a real danger the fish would get tangled with the drogue's ropes. We were now in control; I could concentrate on dealing with the fish. I applied as much pressure as my tackle allowed, thankfully I was using 12.5lb [0.24mm] Seaguar Grand-Max fluorocarbon leader. Slowly I was winning the battle, but lifting this strong fish was proving very difficult as it powered off every time it neared the surface. Fortunately, Gary had brought along a 'specimen' size trout net. Thankfully he did a grand job and netted the huge rainbow trout at the first attempt. To say I was relieved, is an understatement. We both peered into the net and just stared in amazement. My 'Little Samson' spring balance registered 11lbs, my biggest trout by far.

A few drifts later, I'm still in a daze, when my line draws tight again, at the end of my retrieve. We have a repeat performance but this time I manage to subdue the fish without any drama. Applying a lot more pressure this time, I now knew what my tackle was capable of, I managed somehow to prevent it from going behind the boat. Another double figure trout, surely this

Andy's first double

couldn't be real, I must be dreaming. At this point Gary hadn't had a take, but that was soon to change. I aimed our subsequent drifts, to stay parallel to the shore, as we drifted into the back of the bay. Gary was able to cast into the shallow margins, and now it was his turn to do battle! Once hooked, his first fish took off like a 'scolded cat', powering off up-wind. It was my turn to start the engine, pull the drogue, and follow Gary's fish. Holding



station, Gary took control and played his fish expertly. Successful boat fishing requires good 'teamwork', and never has this been more necessary than on this day! I nervously held the net waiting the opportunity to scoop another truly amazing rainbow into the boat. Another double, this time the scales reached 12lbs! It's all a blur after that, Gary carried on catching, double after double!

As the wind strengthened, I struggled to maintain contact with my line, which on reflection meant my flies were going beneath the fish. All my takes had come on the lift which I'm convinced brought my flies back into view. In contrast Gary had employed a 'roly-poly' retrieve to keep up with the drift speed, and all his takes came as he retrieved.

Dazed and confused we finished our fantastic day with big smiles on our faces.

# Medway Man Bob Morris

ate April and I have yet to hear the first Cuckoo of spring! This does not surprise me however, as there are very few of them visiting our area these days and unfortunately the same goes for Swallows, Martins, Swifts etc and many more of our much-loved summer visitors. I find all of this extremely sad and the frequent publication of statistics relating to the decline in the populations of many species is a constant cause for concern.

Having said this, I am still happy to be out in the countryside at this time of year, even enjoying the frequently wild weather conditions which have often ranged from freezing at dawn to 'shirts off' sunny afternoons followed by gales and heavy rain. I am never sure how, or even if, these fluctuating conditions affect the fishing results, but it certainly can dictate the tactics and methods used. Although it is always possible to adapt float tackle to suit even strong wind / choppy, surface conditions, I find that it is often too much of a strain to watch a float for any length of time at these times. This means that much of my recent fishing has been done with feeder/leger tactics of one sort or another. The main idea of this style of fishing is. of course, to present a hook bait in amongst a small patch of freebies and often this is enough, but I often end up introducing extra feed either by firing out balls of ground bait into the chosen area or using a spomb, or similar device, to deliver loose offerings such as pellets, particles etc. Sometimes I find that moulding stiff balls of bait around the lead can be adequate for ranges of up to 50yds or so and when exploring new waters or areas this is a good ploy. When I want to use a softer mix however, I need to use some form of feeder usually a frame or cage type.



Great to be out!

During the last few years, I have been experimenting with feeders constructed from large hair curlers (pictured below) which allow a handful of bait to be put out with each cast. These have been very effective and a variation of this method, which I have mentioned before, is the buoyant feeder. This is the same large body but without the attached weight. A stone of appropriate size is then put into the cylinder along with the bait. This allows you to tighten up to it after casting and fish in the normal way. The benefit of this system is that when a fish is hooked (or even just on the retrieve) the stone falls out, which leaves the buoyant feeder – and this is far less prone to snagging in weed or obstructions. This is very effective in weedy conditions, particularly when fishing in a clear patch at range. This experiment came about because I found myself fishing for roach at about 30-40yds on a weedy water and I was losing about 40% of the fish hooked – mainly due to the weight of the feeder. The above ploy certainly improved the catch rate and produced a couple of bonus sizeable tench and bream. Although I still prefer to float fish at close range where possible, I accept that often this will not be possible, and a variety of feeder tactics will be necessary.

Just a quick note on ground bait mixes. My standard approach is to use a mixture of Vitalin dog food with a bout 25% breadcrumbs. This is an extremely adaptable (and cheap) mix and can be used wet almost like cloud bait at close range but with a bit of tweaking can make





Bream of the feeder tactics





Decent Roach on Bob's feeder

stiff balls of bait that can be fired/spombed out at range. The good thing about using a mix like this is that any freebies – pellets, seeds, corn, boilies, paste or even maggots and casters can be added along with liquid flavour, if required. I always think that when fishing this way, it is the mix that attracts the fish so to some extent the hook bait is not so important - hence the success of artificial baits.

Finally on a different subject: I had intended to include another Piscatorial Politics piece this month relating to last month's pollution story. As there are quite a few meetings and developments coming up/going on, as I write this however, I decided to leave it for a future issue. If any important news crops up in the next week or so, I will update it on the FWI Facebook page. This is a fast-moving issue, and I don't want to be publishing old news.

Best Fishes + Issues Bob Morris





Coarse Fisheries		
Beaver Farm Fishery Eastbourne Road		
Newchapel, Lingfield RH7 6HL  Charlies Lakes	01342 324006 /	07710 656041
Steeds Lane, Kingsnorth, Ashford TN26	1NH	07857 539785
Chart Hill Lakes		
Chart Hill Road, Chart Sutton ME17 3EZ		07398 571337
<b>Chequertree Trout and Coarse Fishe</b>	ry	
Bethersden, Near Ashford TN26 3JR		01233 820078
Coombewood Fishery		
Redbrook Street, High Halden, Near Ash	ford TN26 3JH	07895 679569
<b>Elphicks Fisheries</b> Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden TN12 8	FI	01580 212512
Eureka Fishery	LL	01500 212512
Nicholas Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kei	nt TN25 4AG	07597 879621
Furnace Brook Fishery and Fish Farn	n	
Trolliloes, Cowbeech, near Hailsham BN2	27 4QR	01435 830835
Gabriels Fishery		
Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP		07730 066088
<b>Greenacres Farm Fishery</b> Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden TN27 8EH	ı	07933 934942
Hawkhurst Fish Farm		0/933 934942
Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT		01580 753813
Horam Manor Fishery		
Horam Manor Farm, Horam TN21 0JB	01323 840889 /	07707 759364
Horsmonden Lakes	0	01000 000576
Grovehurst Road, Horsmonden TN12 8B	Q	01892 838576
<b>Iden Wood Fishery</b> Coldharbour Lane, Iden, Rye TN31 7UT	01797 280180 /	07906 232225
Knightingales Fishery	01/1/ 100100 /	0,000 101110
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 Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood TN	112 6NV	01892 838576
Pittlands Lakes	IIZ ONI	01092 030370
Churn Lane, Horsmonden, Paddock Woo	d TN12 8HL	07716 065900
Sandwich Lakes Coarse Fishery		
Sandwich Ash Road (A257), Near Cante	rbury CT3 2DA	07936 409912
Shirkoak Fishery	TN26 207	
Bethersden Road, Woodchurch, Ashford	1N26 3PZ	07072 440072
	rough Dark	07973 410973
The Lakes at Beachborough Beachbo Newington, Near Folkestone CT18 8BW	rough Park	07973 410973 07469 809877
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Reynolds Place, West Green, Crawley RH11 7H Kent Angling Centre	B <b>01293 521186</b>
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11 Twydall Green, Gillingham ME8 6JY  MFC Outdoor Store	01634 475260
9 Station Road, Hailsham BN27 2BE	01323 846883
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Orchard Tackle 58 High Brooms Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent T	N4 9DB <b>07494 670328</b>
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