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Hello and welcome to the April edition of the Freshwater Informer

Spring is in the air, and with it comes a fresh wave of excitement across our beloved waters.

As the days grow longer and the temperatures rise, the fishing has finally kicked into gear, and captures are coming in thick and fast.

After a long winter of patience and preparation, it's fantastic to see anglers reaping the rewards of their efforts. However, this month also brings some sad news with the closure of Bury Hill Fishery. A venue that has meant so much to so many over the years, it's a real loss to the angling community. Bury Hill has been home to countless memorable sessions, PBs, and friendships forged on the bankside. While we bid farewell to this iconic fishery, we also reflect on the incredible experiences it has provided and hope that those who fished its waters will carry those memories with them for years to come.

On a brighter note, our April edition is packed with stories that capture the true essence of springtime fishing. In the Edge, with Alex takes young Theia to the river for some incredible captures, proving that there's no better way to inspire the next generation of anglers than with hands-on experience and the thrill of the fight.

Meanwhile, in Jim's Journey, we follow Jim to Shirkoak Fishery, where he settles in for a couple of nights in one of their pods. With some great captures along the way, his trip is one many of us will be itching to replicate as the season gets into full swing. With the fish on the feed and the conditions improving, now is

the time to dust off the gear, get out there, and make the most of what's shaping up to be a fantastic start to the spring fishing season.

Tight lines, and we look forward to seeing your catches! As always, we love featuring your captures, so don't forget to send in your best shots to

info@freshwaterinformer.com.

Tight lines, and here's to a great start to spring!

Have a great month, The FWI Team.



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The Freshwater Informer

email: info@freshwaterinformer.com

COPY DEADLINE for May 2025 Magazine

Wednesday 16th April 2025 at 5pm

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Beaver Farm Fishery

To fish Snipe Lake, Westlake (formerly Tuscany Lake), Daughters Lake, and Majors Lake, specific tackle is required. Check our website (beaverfarmfishery.co.uk) for details. Westlake anglers must have a dedicated Catfish mat, and those fishing Majors Lake need a large unhooking mat and a minimum 36-inch net-no exceptions.



finley whitworth 1st ever carp jeffs lake



Chris Edland 31-10 Snipe

With night temperatures still below zero, some lakes remain quiet, particularly Westlake, where catfish are waiting for warmer weather. However, some great catches have been reported recently.

Snipe Lake: Ian York landed a 20-02 common after a patient wait. Other notable catches include Scott Harvey's 19-10 mirror, Chris Edland's 31-10 common, and Simon Gore's 30-05 common.

Jeff's Lake: A busy spot with plenty of action - Darren and Jason Caller banked 25 fish, including bream to 5-05 and carp to 6lb. Ian Thomsett caught three mirrors and four F1s in just two hours, while young Finley Whitworth landed his first carp with help from his parents.

Daughters Lake: Graham Carter caught a 15lb grass carp, John Pelham a 16-03 mirror, and Billy Fowler a 20lb mirror. Callum Hutchins secured a low double common and his first UK grassie at 26-

04, while Henry Symmonds set a new PB with a 29-14 grass carp.

Eden Pond: Still slow due to cold water, but some tench up to 3-08 and bream have been landed.

Majors Lake: More activity as anglers return. Notable catches include James Taylor's low double mirror, Archie Ellis' 10lb common, and Seb Butler's 7lb pike. Other highlights: Riley Hicks' 13lb mirror, Connor Godfrey's 12lb mirror, Nathan Savill's 17-03 common, and Jason Swift's 23-14 mirror.



Connor Godfrey 12-00 Majors



Simon Gore 30-05 Snipe



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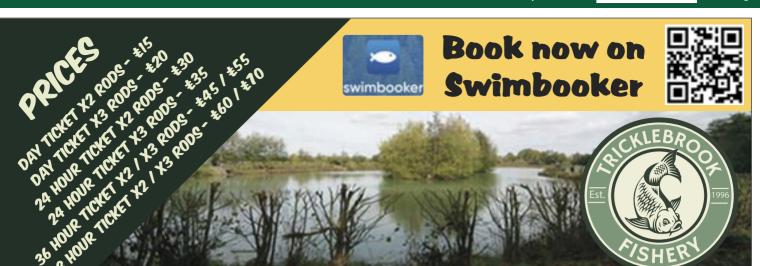
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- 3. NO NUTS OR PARTICLE
- 4. BOILIE AND PELLET ONLY FOR SPECIMEN AND BACK LAKE ALL BAIT WILL BE INSPECTED
- 5. ALL FISH MUST BE RETURNED TO THE WATER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING CAPTURE. NO STANDING. FISH MUST BE HELD LOW OVER A MAT/CRADLE FOR PHOTOGRAPHS
- 6. MINIMUM 15LB LINE AND NO BRAIDED MAIN LINE
- 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
- 19. TRICKLEBROOK IS NOW OPERATING A ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY TO ANY ACTS OF AGGRESSION OR ABUSE TOWARDS ITS BAILIFFS AND STAFF
- 20. ALL RUBBISH TO BE TAKEN HOME

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SUMMER 7AM - 7PM WINTER 7AM TO DUSK



A Poor Start But The Best Is To Come By Russ Evans

would have to say that this has been one of my worst starts to a new year fishing wise that I can remember.

It started off with the rivers in flood and over the banks, not for the first time either in this current season, then we had a cold snap with the lakes iced up and just has they started to thaw and I was ready to get my Perch rods for a Winter Campaign I went down with that nasty cold bug that is doing the rounds and before I knew it, January had passed and half of February was gone as well. I felt so rough with it all I must admit I had lost my enthusiasm to get out on the banks fishing and making videos for my You Tube channel. Of course I knew it was just a blip and I would soon be grabbing the gear and heading back out in the fresh air and countryside doing what I like doing best.

My first trip out was down a local river and although it looked horrible with a very muddy look about it, the flow was bombing through and looking for a nice slack to try and tempt a bite from was an impossible task. So after a very long walk in sodden fields I eventually ended up fishing a deep swim on a big bend but the current was moving around all over the place and fishing a float was not an option as presentation would have been near on impossible. Using my 11ft All Rounder with a 2 ounce tip section paired up with a fixed spool reel loaded with 6lbs feeder line, I set up a run rig system with a maggot feeder and fluorocarbon hook length starting off with a size 14s hook baited with three red maggots.



Because it was my first trip out of 2025 I wanted to keep things simple and fish just for bites so I deliberately just brought a pint of red and white mixed with half a bag of a dark mix groundbait. Feeding little and often through the maggot feeder was my only option to try and get some bait down on the deck in 13ft depth of water, it is a very deep swim as I mentioned earlier.

Was I The Only Person Alive?

It was great just to be out by the riverbank again and although I wanted to get a few bites, even from a humble gudgeon, I knew it was going to be difficult and it certainly was. There were no signs of fish of any size moving about and no sign of the Kingfishers either, which was very unusual. It was kind of like I was the only

person left on the planet as I did not see another angler on the stretch even when I packed up and took the slow long walk back to the car park. Although biteless I



thoroughly enjoyed my few hours fishing and filmed the session accounting to the camera some past trips of years gone by especially a scary moment that happened to me back in the 80s when on a fishing trip to Ireland with two fishing buddies I nearly lost my life in the quest of catching some fish. Just half way through the video titled 'I NEARLY DIED FISHING' I recall that day on a fast flowing and deep river, so please feel free to give it a watch as it is a reminder that our beloved sport fishing can also be a dangerous place to be when the erosion of banks is taking place unknowingly, on that day I certainly was a lucky boy.

FRESHWATER

We Sadly Lose Another Fishery

I have to give a mention to the closing of a fantastic fishery that over the years has given me so many brilliant days fishing and of course to the thousands and thousands of it's visiting anglers as well. Bury Hill Fishery near Dorking in Surrey, closed its doors for the final time on Friday 28th February 2025. During the years of 2006 to 2012 I managed the onsite tackle shop, run matches and events there across the lakes, held fishing lessons for those that wanted to improve their angling techniques and catch rates. I also had the pleasure to work with some of the very best magazine editors and photographers on How To Catch magazine features plus the national weeklies such as the Angling Times and Anglers Mail. Also at Bury Hill I had the pleasure of working with the Sky Sports Tight Lines production team presented by Keith Arthur, they were great filming days and I managed to catch plenty for the cameras. So although I enjoyed fishing the lakes like any other angler did at the fishery on the Old Lake, Milton Lake, Bonds plus Temple. Bury Hill was so much more to me than just that, I met and worked with some lovely people that I now call my friends. Bury Hill will be missed greatly to all those that sat by its banks ever since it first become an estate lake day ticket fishery. "My memories will always run deep of this incredible fishery"

One Door Shuts Another One Opens

Although I mentioned at the start of this article that I have suffered a poor start to my 2025 fishing exploits or lack of them, all is not lost



as I have lots
to look
forward to
and after
being on a
waiting list for
some time to
join a small
syndicate
lake, I
received an
email recently

to inform me that a place has opened up for me which I have gladly accepted. The lake in question holds all the species I love to fish for an in large specimen size too so in Spring I will be setting my stall out for some great Tench and Bream fishing with specimen Perch and Roach fishing for later in the Autumn and Winter. I am hoping my future articles will show me holding some new Pbs, my fingers are crossed.

A Final Chub or Two would be Great

As per normal of the last few seasons the rivers will be perfect to fish from 15th March

which of course is no good to us river anglers being as that is the close season until 16th June when all the magic kicks off again





Bury Hill Bream

swims and the pruning of starts all over again. But with a few days left of the current season I have planned a couple of trips on a section of river I have not fished for three or four years. I walked the stretch the day before I wrote this column to check out some old fishing haunts that I fished over the years but as pleased as I was to see some of the swims in place a few were overgrown to the extent that some young trees had rooted and grown closing the swim down. The river was still pushing through a bit but with the forecast dry for a few days I think I will be able to get some quality chub fishing in plus I hope some Perch action as well before the end of 14th March. Let's hope my next column will confirm this with some interesting catch photos.

Until we meet again I hope you continue to enjoy the column and hope you manage to have spare time to check out my Fishing Tail Films You Tube channel here I will soon be uploading more fishing films very soon even though there are well over a hundred videos already on the channel to watch.

"Tight Lines & Wet Lines -Russ Evans



Greenacres Farm Fishery

Speci 1

The carp have woken up and are being caught over small baited areas of sweetcorn and pellet, or fishing pva bags close to the islands or inner margins. Perch fishing on here has been rewarding to anglers that are willing to fish for them with some just shy of 4lb. These fish have all been caught on float fishing tactics by using worm or maggot on the hook and constantly sprinkling maggots over the top on every cast with a catapult to keep the rudd and roach in the swim which will then attract the big perch to feed. There has also been some caught on small jelly lures.



Speci 2

The carp in this lake have been coming out by fishing to margin spots with solid pva bags or a little pva mesh bag and using fruity/sweet boilies like cell and pineapple. Catfish are the more dominant species of fish in this lake and they do push out the carp feeding in your area, as they will eat anything. But if you wish to just target the catfish then the best method is to use high attractant boilies or pellet like krill boilies or marine halibut pellet over a large bed of pellet that's soaked in a fishy attractant. The catfish have started to wake up now with the biggest coming out so far at 30lb.

Heron

People have been having a cracking time on here catching large mixed bags of silvers and carp on both float and method feeding tactics. Baits

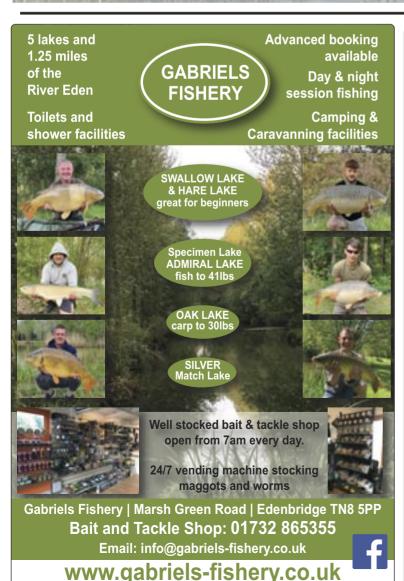


that seem to be working is maggots, castors and worms over a ball of groundbait when float fishing and feeder fishing seems to be banded 10mm pellets. Don't forget your surface baits as they are taking of the top now the warmer weather has arrived.

Kingfisher

This lake is the one to be on any time of the year especially during the winter as it produces lovely mixed bags of fish and keeps you going all day. Fish can literally be caught on the top two sections of your pole on any bait that you wish to use.





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New Claygate Lakes









Claygate Lakes Fishing Update

Lake Sophie - Tench are biting on worm and maggot, with the occasional carp caught off the top in the late afternoon. Maggot feeder is the best tactic during the day.

Lake Eva - Maggot feeder and 'house boilies' are working well, with occasional pike caught on live bait.

Lake Amy - Small pellet bags with wafters or pop-ups are worth trying, but krill/fishy baits have been most effective.

Great to see our regulars back! Congrats to John Butcher on landing a Boris strain common carp.

With warmer weather coming, book your swim in advance. Stay updated on Facebook: Dave Claygate. Membership & Day TicketsWe offer day/night tickets, plus a 12-month membership.

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Lake Sophie match/Pleasure - Carp 16lb+ Tench 8lb+ Chub 5lb+ Barbel 4lb+ Perch 3lb+ Bream11lb+ Roach 2lb+ skimmer Bream and other silvers f

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FRESHWATER INFORMER

Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hawkhurst, Kent



27lb 8oz Common - Specimen Lake - Jack Spoor

It's been a slow start to the year with cold spells and ice making it hard for anglers to get on the bank, but it feels like Summer may be just around the corner now with the days getting longer and the slightly warmer temps. Our infamous daffodils are starting to pop



Daniel Grant - 14lb Common - Quarry Lake

their heads out and we look forward to seeing their fabulous display in the weeks to come! The lakes themselves are starting to become more active, with Quarry Lake and Main Lake fishing particularly well recently. There's even been some catfish gracing the banks of Quarry Lake, which is great for this time of year. Please remember to send your catch reports in, you can do so by email, Facebook, Instagram or Swimbooker.



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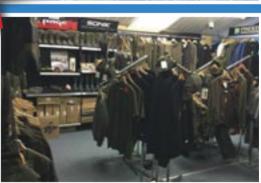
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My planned, relaxing Sunday afternoon of drinking tea and eating cake, went straight out the window when my eight-year-old neighbours daughter, Theia, appeared at my door clutching a handful of worms.

"Please can we go fishing? I've been reading about chub in my book, and I really want to try and catch one."

It was clear that resistance was futile, and truth be told, I'm always happy to do what I can to help out with next generation of anglers. Even if it means missing out on cake!

I grabbed a rod, landing net and other essentials, plus a 'bitsa' tackle tin that I keep handy for roving sessions, and we were all set.

As we walked towards the river, I tried to explain the importance of being stealthy when fishing for chub. Anyone that knows fishing, knows that chub are one of the most timid of fish and easily spooked. Anyone that knows eight year olds knows that they are basically three and a half feet of noise and excitement.

We arrived at the first pool and I baited the hook with worms before making ready to cast.

"I want to cast" said Theia, "I do know what I'm doing" quickly followed by, "Can you get the line out of the trees for me..."

By the time I got everything untangled, any self-respecting chub would have long since fled for cover. It did, however, offer a chance to go over the tactics and how we would target the fish. I had brought along a 9ft feeder setup, loaded with 8lb line, a small 3/8 oz bomb with a bb shot acting as a leger stop, followed by a size 6 hook crammed full of worms. Unlike the float fishing that we usually do, we would instead, have to watch the brightly coloured quivertip for signs of a bite.

We practiced our casting in some snag free areas, before slowly making our way along the stream in search of likely looking spots to fish. In my opinion, this is undoubtedly one of the great benefits of encouraging youngsters into angling, not just to catch fish, but to introduce them to the wider natural world. Although Theia, and her family, have lived their whole lives in the countryside, we were still able to turn a walk along a stream into a big adventure. We watched bees, covered in pollen, as they gorged themselves on nectar from wild tulips, saw a heron idle along the valley in search of an afternoon snack, and followed deer tracks until they

disappeared into a dense thicket. All of this and more, thanks to the humble fishing rod, and something that so many kids would, and already do, benefit from.

The low afternoon sun was casting our shadows across the water and making creeping into position quite a challenge. A number of times we saw chub flash upstream and disappear into cover before we

could make the crucial cast. We would try anyway, leaving the bait for a few minutes before moving on, although it was becoming quite a frustrating mission. At one point, concentration was in danger of giving way to cartwheels, as even the most determined of eight year

olds struggle to sit still for more than a few minutes.

Just at
the point
that I
thought
that I
would
hear the
words "I'm
bored can we go
home?" a
jack pike
launched
itself at



the bait as Theia retrieved it, galvanising both of our attention. "Whoa! What was that!" she cried.

"A pike" I said, "They're like a...."

"They're like a Barracuda!" she interrupted, "except they are green, and they have over 200 teeth, and their fins are all near their tail, and they eat other fish, and they have camouflage on their backs..."

It turns out that she had read the chapter on pike as well.

"Can we catch it?"

I explained that we weren't really tackled up for pike fishing, but if we managed to catch a chub then I may be able to cobble something together.

"Right then, let's hurry up and catch a chub!" she exclaimed, as she marched off to the next pool with me struggling to keep up.

I knew that our best chance was toward the end of the stretch. An area on a bend, where I'd recently seen a number of smaller fish. I reiterated the need to be quiet and stealthy, and together we hatched a plan. Theia would keep a low profile at the head of the pool, whilst I

crept along to the point where I knew the fish to be, lower the bait into position, and return the rod to her. It worked perfectly, and before long we were both crouched down alongside an old tree stump, watching the quivertip gently nod in the current.

"I think that we should throw some worms in" said Theia, in an exaggerated whisper.

I gave her the thumbs up, and we watched as they drifted and danced, carried along by the swirling water. They had barely disappeared from view when there was a knock on the tip. I signalled to Theia to get ready. Twice more it knocked, before the rod wrenched round.

"Fish, it's a fish, it's a fish!" I cried, stumbling to my feet. Theia calmly picked up the rod and began expertly playing the fish towards the net.

"Don't let him get around the corner! rod up! rod down! reel, reel! stop reeling!" Nothing I was saying was making much sense. In my defence, I had seen the fish, and far from being one of the small fish that I know to inhabit the pool, this was a proper chub, and a good one at that. Theia was excited, but focused, and I managed to calm down enough to net her prize.

Big smiles and high fives all round. I've fished this stretch since the eighties and my biggest chub from it might just have scraped three pounds. This one was clearly bigger, and it was no surprise when the scales swung around to 3lb 10oz. Theia's first ever chub, and she'd blown my best out of the water!

"Congratulations, your first ever chub, and you're now the record holder for this whole stretch of river" I announced as I took some pictures.

"What? Wait. So I've caught a bigger fish than you? I thought that you were supposed to be good at fishing..." she replied through a beaming smile.

We rested the fish in the net before watching it slowly drift away, back to its smaller brethren. "You said that if I caught a chub, then you would help me catch the pike as well"

A deals a deal, so I dug around in my 'bitsa' box and uncovered an old spinning trace and the remains of a rather ragged looking shad bait.

'We can try" I said, as I rigged it to the mainline, "but don't get your hopes up. I've only ever caught one pike from this whole river. They are very rare, and the one that we saw earlier might have gone into hiding."

But she was on a wave and keen to try. We retraced our steps, and I demonstrated how to fish a lure in a shallow run, so that she could see how to retrieve it. We arrived back to the place of our earlier encounter. I swung the lure out and handed her the rod. She had barely turned the handle three times before everything went tight and the pike exploded through the surface of the water in a flurry of spray. This time it was Theia screaming, and me

trying to keep a cool head.

"Keep the pressure on, don't wind, let the rod do the work, he can't go far."

Theia held on gamely, and inch by inch gained the upper hand. We could both see the lure clamped across the pikes jaw as it drew level with our position. I pushed the net into the water and told her to lower the rod. allowing the current to carry the fish into the waiting mesh.



More screams and high fives. By the time we lifted the fish out, the barbless hook had already fallen out.

Both grinning from ear to ear, we marvelled at this perfect monster. Theia confirming all that she had read in her book (although she didn't count the teeth!)

A few quick snaps, and we carefully returned the pike, because despite their fierce appearance, they are actually a fragile fish.

We began walking home. Theia bouncing around like a rubber ball, me slightly less so.

"So..., I've caught the same number of pike as you, and a bigger chub than you, and I'm only eight. When can we go fishing again?"

"I don't know. My ego needs to recover first"



Theia stopped in front of me, looked me in the eye, and in a very serious voice said "Do you think it will be better by next weekend? We really need to catch a perch next"...

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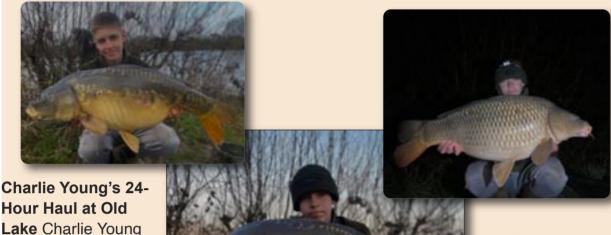
Ifish of the Month Prize Winner

Although our Urban Baits competition is open to fish of all species and sizes, it is difficult to ignore such an impressive catch of large carp. Especially when the catch photographs are so well balanced and show the fish off to their best.

FRESHWATER

This competition is open to all species. To be in with a chance of winning, send your catches to

info@freshwaterinformer.com Winners will receive a Freshwater Informer Session Pack 2kg of Boilies 1kg Stick Mix, 500ml Liquid and Hook Baits to match in either their Nutcracker, Red Spicy Fish, Tuna & Garlic, Strawberry or Fully Loaded Range



Hour Haul at Old Lake Charlie Young hit the banks of Old Lake at Tricklebrook this Month for a 24hour session, and it paid off in style. Fishing boilies, he

landed a solid stamp of fish, all in the 20s, proving once again why this venue holds some real gems. With steady action throughout, it was a session to remember. Top angling, Charlie!



Aaron Bowles - PB 32lbs.8oz Common Carp - Monk Lakes













April 2025

Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society

The Society has now joined CLUBMATE, so any new members wanting to join can visit our website to get the link or visit us via the Clubmate website.

This year, we celebrate our 150 year Anniversary, a fantastic achievement and the Club is still going from strength to strength. There will be various different things going on throughout the year to celebrate.

CATCH REPORTS:

Larry Howard and Lee Wakeman enjoyed some great sport as the river level was being dropped at Hartlake. Leapfrogging the stretch primarily targeting the big Chub in this section, bites were slow to begin with until Larry landed a nice Bream. Lee managed a couple of 3lb Chub and Larry landed one of around 1lb 8oz.





Lee finished the session off with a terrific Roach of 1lb 8oz which will qualify for the specimen Cup.

Nick Dann enjoyed his last river session on the Canon Bridge stretch, finding a decent shoal of Bream, Nick landed 21 Bream to around 5lb.

TONBRIDGE AND DISTRICT ANGLING AND FISH PRESERVATION SOCIETY

MATCH RESULTS Winter Pegdown - Sportsground

1st - Paul Reddy	6lb 14oz
2nd - Martyn Hill	6lb 12oz
3rd - Jim Sene	5lb 14oz

PAIRS MATCH

Hartlake Up and Down - 20 fished

1st - Pat Galpin	27lb 2oz
Mick Smith	
2nd - Colin Fowler	14lb 8oz

12lb 12oz

Paul Mitchell 3rd - Steve Parker

Martyn Hill

MATCH CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL STANDINGS

1st - Andrew Goldthorpe	87lb	9oz
2nd - Colin Fowler	73lb	13oz
3rd - Bob Wallis	73lb	1oz

ALL ROUNDER CLIP

LL ROUNDER CUP	
1st - Lee Wakeman	30 points
2nd - Mick Smith	28 points
3rd - Dave Lee	23 points
John Cooper	







Angling Societies

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

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

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TIM'S TOURNEY.





SHIRKOAK FARM FISHERY

With the fishing shows behind us and the first signs of warmer weather emerging, Dad and I planned our first Jim's Journey adventure of 2025 — a trip to Shirkoak Farm Fishery in Kent



Preparation and Planning

Saturday was dedicated to getting everything in order. We checked our equipment, sorted our bait, and refreshed our rigs. Dad had a brand-new set of rods and reels, so it was fresh line all around. I had also been busy tying up new rigs in preparation for the season ahead. One rig I was particularly excited to try was a D-rig using Rigmarole Hydro Link, a fluorocarbon-coated braid hook link. What I liked most was how the braid could be separated to expose the fluoro, creating a hinge section without compromising its breaking strain. I opted for a hinge positioned approximately 20mm from the hook eye.

With everything prepped and the car packed, we made a quick stop for supplies before heading off the next morning.

Arrival at Shirkoak

We set off around 10 a.m., taking a relaxed drive to Shirkoak, knowing we had a lodge booked for our stay. Upon arrival, we took a walk around the lake to assess the conditions. The sun was shining, with temperatures reaching a pleasant 16–18°C—the warmest day of the

reaching a pleasant 16–18°C—the warr

year so far. To our delight, we spotted carp basking in the upper layers near some snags.

As tempting as it was to cast out immediately, we remained patient. This was our first visit, and we wanted to take it all in. A quick chat with some anglers that Dad knew revealed that they

had landed nine fish up to 22lb during their session. This filled us with confidence.

Setting Up & First Bites

We met with Sarah, who showed us to our accommodation—Fir Lodge, the middle lodge on the left-hand bank from the car park. The lodge was immaculate, offering everything we could need for a comfortable stay. Wanting to make things easier for Dad, I gave him the area directly outside the pod, while



I set up on the grass bank beside it.

With my first rod set up on the alarm

With my first rod set up on the alarms, I turned my attention to bait selection. I was eager to test the new Urban Bait, hoping to build my confidence with it. The first rod was baited with a Red Spicy Fish Wafter, accompanied by a small mesh bag of mixed crushed baits to create an enticing food parcel. Before I even had a chance to set up my second rod, the alarm screamed into life.

Looking at each other in disbelief, we couldn't believe how quickly I was into a fish! It wasn't the biggest, but it felt fantastic to be back on the bank with a bend in the rod. After slipping the fish back, I finally got both rods in position, and Dad did the same. With everything sorted, we could finally enjoy a well-earned brew



A Productive Session

Shirkoak Farm Fishery spans approximately three acres and features a well-designed layout with spacious, comfortable swims. Dad chose to fish a margin swim, baiting up with Nutcracker boilies, pellets, and a mix of hemp and maize. His approach paid off, as four of his five fish came from this spot, no more than 30cm from the bank.

The night in the pod was cozy and warm. After dinner, we spent time testing out some of our new camera equipment and brainstorming ideas for our upcoming YouTube channel for the magazine (scan the QR code on this page to check it out!).



Shirkoak

We continued catching steadily throughout our stay, ending the session with ten carp between us, five each, with the biggest weighing in at 17lb 2oz—caught on my final cast before packing up.

Final Thoughts

We thoroughly enjoyed our time at Shirkoak and can't recommend the fishery

enough. A massive thank you to Hugh and Sarah for their hospitality and, of course, the famous Shirkoak Breakfast, which was the perfect way to round off an incredible first trip of the new season.

We're already looking forward to the next adventure on Jim's Journey!







This beautiful tranquil fishery is situated on the outskirts of Woodchurch village, stocked with carp to 30lbs+ and Pike to 20lbs+.

Night fishing is permitted by prior arrangement only.
We can also offer food delivered to your swim, our full English breakfast is proving extremely popular!

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April 2025



GUIDED LURE & FLY FISHING DAYS WITH ANDY LUSH

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LURE FISHING Fish a variety of reservoirs for Pike, Perch and Zander. These days are suitable for beginners and improvers who wish to 'fast track' their way to success. Learn more about lure fishing, the use of boats and fish finders, or just have a FUN day with an experienced Predator angler.

FLY FISHING One of Andy's favourite methods, Trout, Carp or Pike can be targeted.

TROUT Reservoirs or smaller stillwaters in the South East. These days are suitable for beginners or improvers who wish to learn 'how to catch more fish', or just have a FUN day with an experienced fly

CARP & PIKE More anglers are looking to find exciting ways of catching their favourite fish. Carp off the top during the summer takes a lot of beating. Pike in the spring and autumn, whatever their size they are a lot of FUN on the fly!

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







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DUTINFORMER



The trout season kicked off in March with a bang at Tenterden, delivering some outstanding fishing. Among the highlights was Malcolm's impressive 9lb rainbow trout, the biggest caught so far this year! Hooked on a GH Daddy in Lake 3, this hard-fighting beauty

put Malcolm's skills to the test before finally coming to the net. With our waters freshly stocked for the season, we know there are even bigger fish waiting to be landed—so now's the time to get in before the weather warms up!Fishing Conditions & Best Flies

The trout are actively feeding, giving anglers a real challenge. Recent sessions have shown success with these killer fly patterns:

Our Fishery With three lakes spanning five acres, we offer prime stillwater fly fishing for rainbow, brown, and blue trout ranging from 3lbs to 12lbs. Choose from Catch & Keep or Catch & Release permits for full-day, halfday, and evening sessions. After a great day's fishing, unwind in our comfortable Fishery Lodge, where you're welcome to make a cuppa—our treat! More Than Just Fishing!

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Stay With Us - Relax in our heated Shepherd's Hut, set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty near Tenterden. As a guest, you'll enjoy 20% off fishing permits all year round.

Spring fishing is in full swing, and we'd love to welcome you to Tenterden for an unforgettable day on the water. Tight lines

Brick Farm Lakes Herstmonceux, East Sussex

With nicer weather finally making a more regular appearance, the fishing is becoming more enjoyable and less harsh on the fingertips! Spring is proving a very popular time for coaching sessions and Phil

has been busy helping novices learn casting techniques and, in many cases, hooking their first trout! When he hasn't been coaching, Phil has been making the most of the Spring weather by building new stands for Well Lake and plenty of general estate maintenance.

As you would expect for the time of year, you can't really go wrong with a blue flash damsel - the only changeable

being whether it be fished with a nice consistent figure of eight, or a sharp jerky retrieve. On those nice bright and clear days, it is definitely worth having some buzzers in your fly box too: there is lots of new life and nymphs start to become active at this time of year so it's definitely worth trying something smaller and with

varied colours. With that said it leads nicely to the use of bloodworms - a figure of eight will mimic the natural movement of buzzers in their larval stages so these are currently presented in our 'flies of the week' box on the counter!

The diary is filling up nicely for club



days or small group fishing events - all available with or without coaching and with bespoke food packages. Eastbourne & District Fly Fishers Club enjoyed their annual awards dinner recently - plenty of trophies were awarded and another raffle raised club funds. Members and their guests enjoyed a roast beef dinner followed by honeycomb cheesecake. Get in touch with Danni on 01323 832615 to book you event or discuss requirements.



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Trout Informer





Chalk Springs

It's a clear water fishery, where the gin clear water allows you to see what's going on beneath the surface. Fed by underground springs ensures a constant water temperature throughout the year, so the trout thrive in this stable environment.

I'd arranged a trip with my good friend Pete Groombridge, an experience match angler who has recently ventured into fly fishing. The aim was to "fast track" Pete's understanding on how flies behaved underwater, and how trout respond to changes in retrieve speeds and patterns. Most importantly how fish react to changes of flies and their colours?

From past experience, I knew that many of our retrives would be followed by fish without any signs, no plucks or pulls, nothing whatsoever! If it wasn't for the water's clarity you'd be none the wiser. When I first saw this I was shocked, and had to assume this was happening all the time on my local fisheries, where visibility wasn't as good.

Something I also noticed, was how quickly the fish lost interest after only a few casts, a change in colour of fly immediately reignites their curiosity.

The fishing

There had been a sharp overnight frost, it was -2 °C as I left home, and it was barely above freezing when we arrived at the fishery. It was surreal experience as we walked towards the lakes, the water was literally steaming! Obviously the water was much warmer than the air.

There are four lakes at Chalk Spring and they all looked very inviting. We by-passed the North Lake as there were several anglers

already fishing there. The West Lake was empty, so that's where we headed. Pete was eager to start fishing, I left him to it and wandered along the bank looking for fish. I quickly found a pod of trout circulating over a patch of weeds. Being so clear, I could see one fish had an orange fly stuck in it's mouth! I got Pete to move, as this was

clearly the place to start, and I stayed to watch the action unfold.

The trout were very lethargic and weren't at all interested in chasing a moving fly, which is unusual. The fish were very close to the surface, so Pete wisely chose an unweighted fly. In fact he chose a FAB, a "foam arsed blob" which turned out to be

an inspired choice.

The fly barely sunk, and each time it landed on the surface a fish would Fulling Mill Biscuit FAB slowly swim up to it and suck it in! Pete missed the first few in his excitement, striking a little too quickly. It didn't take long however to adjust his timing, and two fish quickly fell to this presentation. I suggested he move on, or at least change flies. Otherwise his day would be over before it had begun, unless he bought another ticket!

Once I'd tackle up, I couldn't resist a few casts at the pod



of trout either. I lost a fish within the first few casts, hooked another, landing it, before I too move on. I then spent several hours searching all the lakes, looking for any outsized trout. I eventually found two bigger fish in the East Lake. I tried various unweighted nymphs before trying a few weighted skinny buzzers, everything failed to

get a positive response. I moved on to the South Lake where I found another pod of fish. I'd noticed several anglers had spent a long time fishing this area. Despite having been fished for, these fish were still happily milling around, between a deep gully and the shallower weeds. I tried smaller and smaller flies, until eventually I got a take on a size 14 'hot red tag sand mullet shrimp'. I set the hook, and momentary felt contact, before it was gone! After several more fishless casts I decied to chage flies, only to discover the hook point had snapped off, doh!

The trout seemed unfazed by my efforts, so I still had a chance if only I could find an acceptable fly. The solution was obvious! Being winter however I hadn't thought success would come in the form of a dry fly! That's right, my next fly choice was a black CDC hopper. It only took a few casts before I hooked my first fish, a second followed shortly

afterwards which completed
my three fish ticket. I gave
Pete a CDC hopper to try, it
didn't take him long to catch his
last fish. More importantly it was
his first trout on a dry
Selectafly H

fly, job done!

the bone! For once I had been sensible and set up an umbrella to act as a wind break. I hunkered down behind the brolly waiting for the action to begin.

I'd tackled up two rods, a leger with a running rig baited with prawn on one. I was using a bite alarm, so I could give my full attention to my second rod. My second method, was going to be "mag & wag", red maggots fished under a loaded waggler float. After plumbing the swim, I set my float just a fraction overdepth to avoid it drifting out of position. I was loose feeding live red maggots sparingly, only a rod length from the bank, at the bottom of the shelf. It took about half an hour before I finally got my first tentative indication. Was it a bite? Very, very slowly the insert waggler sunk until just the very tip was visible above the surface. It was a bite, and I missed it in my excitement! However that was the sign of things to come. Feeding "little an often" did the trick, and a succession of mini perch were swung to hand, and I was enjoying myself.

An hour or so later, with zero interest in the prawn saw me switch to a mini perch livebait. I positioned my bait, with an underarm cast just past where I was float fishing. Not long after that I had a run that produced a Selectafly Hot red tag sand mullet shrimp 2lb perch, result! I re-baited with another mini perch and

Perch quest

Over the last two winters I've been on a mission to catch some specimen perch, on bait rather than lures! The reason for my change in approach is the waters I'm fishing. It common knowledge that many commercial waters hold big perch, but lure fishing isn't an option in most cases. Understandably the fishery owners are worried about the potential to foul hook carp when lure fishing. A few enlightened fisheries will allow "dropshot and ned rigs" as these methods only use a single hook, rather than a treble

I've tried many waters looking for venues that have the potential to produce perch over 3lbs. Now a three pounder isn't a huge perch, but for most of us they are big enough to make the effort worthwhile. Baits; prawns are a popular choice being easily obtainable and they catch plenty of perch. However on one water in particular, one I've fished regularly, the carp beat the perch to the bait so often, that I rarely bother using prawns there! Worms and maggots, and combinations of both can be a good alternative, but if silvers are present, the perch rarely get a look in. I've even tried whitebait as a deadbait, but so far without success, I've not given up on them just yet though. Obviously small live and deadbaits are another option, if allowed.

The fishing

Arriving early one morning recently to a new water, I was hoping to see signs of small fish being harrased by perch. No such luck, it was very cold with a North Easterly breeze and fine rain, which was chilling me to



sat back, warming myself with a hot cup of tea. Two abortive runs followed, well I think they were runs, but they could have been the bait just getting nervous? Whatever the reason, a "swing and a miss" was the result on both occassions!

By mid-day my constant trickle of maggots started to pay dividends. My waggler slowly slid under again but this time my strike met something much larger. The culprit charged off taking me by surprise. My Drennan Acolyte waggler rod took on its fighting curve, a series of tip juddering aggressive head shakes, confirmed it was a perch. Finally I slid the net under a fish of 1lb 10oz. I'm not sure why, but after that the "mag & wag" was unbeatable, as one stonking perch followed another to the net. Meanwhile the livebait rod sat motionless!

Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman

Junior Informer



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will win A super bait bundle which will be supplied by MFC Hailsham or the **Signed Fish With Carl Book**





Millie Bowles Lands Stunning 23lb Mirror at Monk Lakes



The early morning stillness at Monk Lakes was shattered by a brutal run at 7 AM, as Millie Bowles found herself locked into battle with a powerful 23lb mirror carp. Fishing a well-presented spinner rig with a Parker Baits Magic Bean wafter, she had strategically placed 5-10 spods to draw in feeding fish. The tactic paid off in

style. After a tense fight, Millie slipped the net under her new personal best—a pristine mirror carp weighing in at 23lbs. A true testament to her skill and patience, proving once again that those early morning



runs can be the ones that count! Well done, Millie! Here's to even bigger catches ahead. 0 0



This impressive catch earns Harley the MFC Bait Winner title for this edition of Freshwater Informer. Congratulations, and enjoy your MFC Bait prize!

Perch Fishing can be so rewarding



Stanley tyler - Tricklebrook - Perch

Congratulations to Stanley Tyler for his recent success at Tricklebrook Fishery! He landed a couple of lovely perch while float fishing with red maggots on the match lake.

The Freshwater Informer often recognizes young anglers' achievements through their Junior Prize program. Winners have received prizes such as signed copies of Carl Smith's "The Simple Fishing Guidebook," which offers valuable insights into various fishing techniques and species.

Tricklebrook Fishery's match lake is known for its excellent perch fishing opportunities.











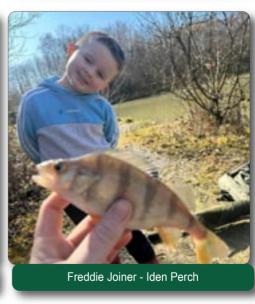


















April Update

Fishing for schools since its beginnings in 2008 have always had an excellent group of coaches and what made the Kent group unique was that it taught Fly, coarse and in recent years Sea fishing to young people.

David Fisher

I have been an angler since I was a boy. I grew up in the Midlands during the 60s in Leicestershire. Originally coarse fishing the upper reaches of the river Soar for



minnows, then graduating to the upper Warwickshire Avon, the Leicester branch of the Grand Union Canal and various reservoirs in the area. I particularly enjoyed pike fishing. My best was just over 20lb from Saddington reservoir. I occasionally

caught small brown trout from the Soar, but I once lost a much larger one that gave me a great shock when I hooked it. It must have been the biggest trout for some way in that small stream. It would still be a respectable wild brownie today.

I stopped fishing for some years, starting again when my son wanted to go. Things had changed enormously from the 70s. We started going to a lake near Canterbury and then joined Canterbury and District AA. There was fly fishing available in the Stour and also in a small, purposebuilt lake. That lake was the impetus to start me fly fishing. Soon, I was a regular at the 'trout pool' as it was known. I also went to Fly Dressers Guild classes at Canterbury and began fly fishing the Stour. Apart from 2 short lessons, I was totally self-taught, but one season managed to win the trophy for the best brace from the trout pool. Feeling more confident, I ventured out to trout reservoirs. First to Bewl, then Weir Wood, Eyebrook, and Ravensthorpe. I also joined the British Fly-Casting Club and went to many of their meetings around the country. When I travelled, I took the opportunity to fish further flung venues in Somerset and the Midlands. I joined a flyfishing syndicate near Sittingbourne. We have a small farm reservoir (7 acres) stocked with trout. I am currently an associate member of GAIA, working towards GAIA Certification.

I did the Angling Trust Level 2 (now known as Lead Coach) early 2024. I continue to progress my fly fishing

and since being involved with Fishing for Schools my interest in coarse fishing has been reawakened.

Tip from David

Winter can be a great time to be out fly fishing. Small still waters are usually at their best during the colder months because the water temperature is more comfortable for the trout. Summer temperatures nowadays are so warm that many small fisheries close down during July and August. Winter clothing is very good these days, keeping warm should not be a problem.

On even the coldest winter day there is usually a small buzzer hatch, often in the early afternoon. If you spot such a hatch, then make the most of it. It is unlikely to last very long. On milder winter days, fly fishing can be really good - cool water, trout active, and the summertime weed has died off. I have caught on dry flies in January. What's not to like?

However, it has to be said that most winter fly fishing will likely be with lures - Cat's Whisker, Humungous, Tadpole, Apache. Patterns with white and green or black and green often do well. A Blue Flash Damsel works all year round. If the water is murky after rain, then patterns with more black or dark usually work better, in clear water white is often the way to go. As with all fly fishing it pays to experiment. If what you are doing is not working, then try something else. On small waters use a sink tip or slow intermediate line instead of a floater, the water is rarely deep enough to require a fast-sinking line. Try a smaller fly. 'Fan cast' around to cover the water in front of you. Vary your retrieve. If you still have no luck, then move.

I recommend you give winter fly a go. If you are new to it then choose small water, reservoirs are bleak and very daunting in winter. The great advantage of a small water is that you can expect to have fish in front of you, even if there is no sign of them.

So, to sum up:

Choose a small water; Brick Farm (Herstmonceux), Tenterden, Chequertree Fishery (Bethersden) or Springhill (Pembury) are all ideal.

Dress warmly, fly fishing is a mobile activity so do not take lots of gear, and you will not mind moving.

Chop and change your tactics until you find success.

Fan cast around your chosen swim rather than keep casting to the same place.

When you have given a swim 15 minutes or so with no success, then move.

Maybe even employ a guide to help for your first winter foray.



and more details



Pittlands Lakes Angling Club
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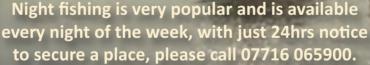
The onsite Bar and Restaurant is open during the season for a variety of hot and cold refreshments including breakfast and lunches, all at reasonable prices. Winter and Summer times vary please check with us.

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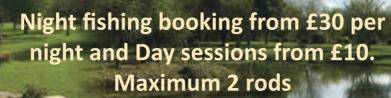
Our toilets are brick-built and open throughout the season, including disabled toilet and shower room.





We have designated kids fishing with their own lake complete with pole hire, nets and bait for all children under 16 who must be accompanied by an adult.

There are 3 other lakes for the more experienced angler with Catfish to 100lbs, Carp to 32lbs+,
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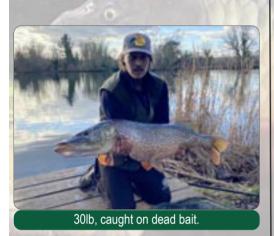
















Birthday Fishing Success at Shirkoak Fishery

Turning 16 was made even more special with an unforgettable fishing session at Shirkoak Fishery. From February 28th to March 2nd, my dad and I stayed in the Willow Pod, making

memories while battling the elements and reeling in some fantastic catches. The session was a huge success, with a total of seven fish caught. The highlight for me was landing my first-ever pike, weighing in at 6.6 pounds, on a lure rod. But the excitement didn't stop there—I also managed to catch a stunning 19-pound winter carp and a 12-pound winter carp, with the bigger



one being a beautiful mirror carp.My success was made even sweeter by using the SBD bundle I won last year, proving its effectiveness in tough winter conditions. The experience of fishing alongside my dad, learning, and enjoying the moments together made it an unforgettable trip.







34



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Scott Harvey 19-10 Snipe - Beaver Fishery





CHARITY AUCTION

During the spring of 2024, one of our TWAPS Members, Mr. Tony Alexander, had to give up fishing for health reasons and decided to donate his fishing equipment to TWAPS to either sell it, donate or do whatever the Society considered appropriate.

After some thought, we came up with the idea of auctioning off the items for charity and after consulting Tony, his chosen charity was the Great Ormand Street Hospital Children's Charity (GOSH CC), a charity close to Tony's heart.

After Committee Member Phil Townsend, Chairman Dennis Hammond and Website Administrator Ian Collier photographed and catalogued all the equipment, an on-line auction was organized on the TWAPS website inviting Members to bid on the items.

equipment to be auctioned. So much equipment in fact, that a second auction is going

The total raised from the auction was £800.00, which was recently presented to GOSH CC.

On behalf of TWAPS and Great Ormand Street Children's Charity I would like to thank Tony for his initial donation that got the ball rolling, and to Phil, lan and Dennis for organizing the auction.

Details of the auction can be found at: https://twaps.co.uk/fishing_articles/charity_auction_ 2024/

Details of GOSH CC and how to make a donation can be found at: https://www.gosh.org/

Mick Mount Society Secretary

15th January 2025

www.twaps.co.uk

07074776000

Society Secretary



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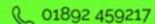


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Freddy Joe Beany's Match Fishing Success at Orchard Place Farm Fishery



The Diary of an Match Angler

Pre-Match Preparation

After the previous days match, I quickly re-tied my rigs, prepared additional bait, and

ensured everything was ready for the day ahead. Arriving at the venue at 7 a.m., I helped peg the lake with a few other anglers. As we walked around, I noticed some fish topping—something that

didn't happen at all yesterday, which gave me a bit of hope.

The designated pegs were set on the roadside bank, the bank with Lake 5 behind it, and the left-hand bank. After returning to the car park, we paid our pools and exchanged a few words before the all-important peg draw. After a good rummage through the bag, I pulled out Peg 14. To my surprise, it was just one peg to the left of where I fished yesterday! My hopes dipped momentarily, but with the new insights I gained, I was determined to make the best of it.

Rig and Tackle Selection

Given my experience from yesterday, I decided against fishing short, as no one had success at close range. My approach was straightforward:

Pole Line (13m): 0.4g Frenzee Slim Line float, bulk of 7 No.9s, and two No.9 droppers to handle the wind. Mainline was 0.20 Drennan Supplex with a 6" hook length of 0.16 Supplex, paired with a size 16 LWG hook.

Maggot Feeder/Bomb: Drennan Acolyte 9ft Commercial Feeder Rod, 2500 Daiwa Ninja reel spooled with 0.20 (8lb) Matrix Horizon Line—an outstanding feeder line. My rig included a quick link swivel, float stop, a twisted bomb of around 4 inches, and a 15cm hook length, allowing me to switch between the maggot feeder and the bomb effortlessly.

The Match Begins

I kicked off the match by feeding two 13m lines with 15-20 maggots. Starting on the maggot feeder, I landed an F1 within the first 30 minutes. After letting the lines settle, I switched to the pole and, after a 5-6 minute wait, landed another small F1 on double red maggots.

From there, I established a rhythm—feeding one line while fishing the other. This method produced a steady stream of bites, though I did encounter a quiet spell. Surprisingly, the final hour was slow when I expected an increase in activity. Despite this, I managed to keep ticking along, ending the match with a solid 57lb, securing second place overall and second in my section.

The winning weight came from two pegs to my left, with 77lb caught on the feeder. A much-improved performance compared to my struggles yesterday, and funnily enough, the peg I fished yesterday produced a similar 19lb weight again.

Looking Ahead

I plan to try out the Matrix Power Micron Mainline, as I've experienced some kinking issues with Supplex. The Micron's thinner diameter (0.18mm for 6.5lb) compared to Supplex (0.20mm for 6lb) should provide greater strength and reliability.

Overall, today was a great turnaround, proving that observation and adaptation can make all the difference in match fishing.

Freddy.















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KINGFISHER LAKE up to 3 Rods

Day Ticket: £20 60 hours: £80 24 hours: £35 72 hours: £95 36 hours: £50 84 hours: £110 48 hours: £65 96 hours: £125 5 days: £140 6 days: £155 7 days: £170 Exclusive Hire up to 15 anglers for 48 hours: £1,000



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A Friend For the Day



Medway Man - April 2025

Spring is with us now, or at least it should be by the time you read this piece. The winter spell might not have been amongst the most severe, but we did suffer a long period of low average temperatures during the first couple of months of the year. Low water temps are not

necessarily a bad thing as they allow for a sort of re-set with weed/pads/algae and various harmful bacteria and bugs dying back properly. This allows a new start for some waters – although this is far more complex and is probably a swings and roundabouts situation overall.

Personally, I have never found that cold winters are bad for fishing as the best spells for most species are more obvious and if you are prepared to get out in some wet and windy conditions which usually equates to milder south westerly air streams it is often possible to do well. However, as I was saying last time, I have become a bit of a piscatorial wimp these days and so have missed out on some of these ideal spells. As far as the Pike fishing goes, frosty weather and low temperatures don't seem to affect them adversely and I have had some of my best sessions during these types of conditions. This year however despite

starting off well I seemed to hit a dead spell with a few grim blank sessions under my belt (on four different waters) to put it mildly. At least with fewer fish my average size was considerably higher



Better than Average Size

Due to this back-end lull in the results I started my spring attack on the tench bream carp etc, a bit early, and so far, this has been successful. A couple of the shallower waters have been the first to wake up and start to fish consistently and I suppose that this is no surprise as the water warms more quickly here. It is often easier to spot the movement of fish on these venues as swirls, mud clouds and bubbling can betray the presence of feeding fish quicker than on deeper waters. I am pleased to see that both tactics, float and feeder, are producing regular action. Bream have been a bit thin on the ground so far but tench of 4/5lb and carp to mid double figers have been obliging and kept me interested. I am not fishing for monsters and consistent action on my chosen waters is my only real goal as this is a good indication that I am getting it right on the tactics front.

I love being out at this time of year and take great delight at witnessing the return of the environment to

spring /summer mode with the emergence of Frogs' Newts etc, and the return of summer bird

species (albeit in drastically declining numbers) and nesting garden species. I am currently

watching two pairs of Blue Tits using the bird boxes in our garden. This is particularly interesting as it is Great Tits that are most numerous here at present. Although I am extremely concerned about the decline in many species over the last few decades, there are some positive signs that many 'natural 'land and water management schemes are now starting to make a positive difference in certain areas. I am fully in support of all these measures and hope to see many of them rolled out nationwide, which may start to reverse the tragic decline. I see that there is currently a controversy surrounding the re-introduction of beavers into certain areas.

This follows a change in thinking on water management and the acceptance by the authorities that holding water back rather than fast tracking it straight out to sea is a better way to control the risk of flooding – something that many of us have been saying for many years! This approach must surely also help considerably during time of drought – if the water has all gone to sea, we can't use it @ Beavers greatly help in this endeavour and as a biproduct greatly benefit the environment and biodiversity. Similarly restoring mountain bogs and moorland and enabling natural woodland and forrest to re-establish itself is also no on the agenda after decades of neglect. This turnaround in the way we look at our



some reluctance to part with the old ways, which have often been largely responsible for the current problem. Obviously, we can't follow a one size fits all on this issue and just roll it out willy nilly, but I do honestly believe that this is all a big step in the right direction. I think that these issues Are far more important than the fishing itself, but of course it is all interconnected.

Although I am not wanting to see Wolves and Bears appearing around the suburbs of Tunbridge Wells or Mammoths roaming the cairngorms I am generally in favour of most of the thinking behind rewilding.

Best Fishes & Conservation efforts Bob Morris



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Fishery Location

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	Dire	ectory	
Coarse Fisheries		Anglers Den	
		6 North Road, Pevensey Bay BN24 6AY	01323 460441
Beaver Farm Fishery Eastbourne Road Newchapel, Lingfield RH7 6HL 01342 32400	06 / 07710 656041	Angling Specialist (ASH)	
Charlies Lakes	00 / 07/10 030041	29 Queen Street, Horsham RH13 5AA	01403 264644
Steeds Lane, Kingsnorth, Ashford TN26 1NH	07857 539785	A.R. Tackle	
	07657 559765	8 Castle Street, Hastings TN34 3DY	01424 422094
Chart Hill Lakes	07000 574007	Bait Bucket Tackle Warehouse Unit T	
Chart Hill Road, Chart Sutton ME17 3EZ	07398 571337	Rich Industrial Estate, Avis Way, Newhaven BN9 0DU	01273 933050
Chequertree Trout and Coarse Fishery	01222 020070	Best Buddies	
Bethersden, Near Ashford TN26 3JR	01233 820078	28 Martello Drive, Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6PH	01303 487144
Coombewood Fishery		Bodle Angling	
Redbrook Street, High Halden, Near Ashford TN26 3JH	07895 679569	Cuckfield Road, Burgess Hill RH15 8RE	01444 247757
Elphicks Fisheries		Camos Carp Cabin	
Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden TN12 8EL	01580 212512	11 Turner Street, Ramsgate CT11 8NJ	01843 581784
Eureka Fishery		Chris Brown Products	
Nicholas Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN25 4AG	07597 879621		01892 723670 .cbproducts.co.uk
Furnace Brook Fishery and Fish Farm			copioducts.co.uk
Trolliloes, Cowbeech, near Hailsham BN27 4QR	01435 830835	Dens Tackle	01202 267052
Gabriels Fishery		73 Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6JN	01303 267053
Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP	07730 066088	Eastbourne Aquarium & Reptile Centre	
Greenacres Farm Fishery		19-21 Seaside, Eastbourne BN21 3PP	01323 730635
Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden TN27 8EH	07933 934942	Henfold Bait & Tackle Henfold Lakes	
Hawkhurst Fish Farm		Henfold Lane, Newdigate, Dorking RH5 4RW	07956 043922
Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	01580 753813	Jack Frost	
Horam Manor Fishery		Reynolds Place, West Green, Crawley RH11 7HB	01293 521186
,	89 / 07707 759364	Gabriels Fishery Tackle Shop	
Horsmonden Lakes		Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP	07730 066088
Grovehurst Road, Horsmonden TN12 8BQ	01892 838576	Medway Tackle Supplies	
Iden Wood Fishery		11 Twydall Green, Gillingham ME8 6JY	01634 475260
Coldharbour Lane, Iden, Rye TN31 7UT 01797 28018	80 / 07906 232225	MFC Outdoor Store	
Knightingales Fishery		9 Station Road, Hailsham BN27 2BE	01323 846883
Stone-In-Oxney, Near Tenterden TN30 7HA	07941 176205	NJ Tackle	
Mousehole Lakes Maidstone Road	07725 702405	150 Milton Road, Gravesend DA12 2RG	01474 353998
Nettlestead, Near Paddock Wood ME18 5HR	07725 783405	Orchard Tackle	01171000000
Orchard Place Farm Fishery	04000 000000	58 High Brooms Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9DB	07494 670328
Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood TN12 6NY	01892 838576	Pinions Baits	07434 070320
Pittlands Lakes	07746 065000	431 London Road, Ditton, Aylesford ME20 6DB	01622 718580
Churn Lane, Horsmonden, Paddock Wood TN12 8HL	07716 065900	Polegate Angling Centre	
Sandwich Lakes Coarse Fishery	07026 400012	Unit 7, Birch Industrial Estate, Eastbourne BN23 6PH	01323 486379
Sandwich Ash Road (A257), Near Canterbury CT3 2DA	07936 409912	Romney Angling	
Shirkoak Fishery Bethersden Road, Woodchurch, Ashford TN26 3PZ	07072 410072	59, High Street, New Romney TN28 8AH	01797 362889
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	07973 410973	Sheppey Angling, Unit 5, Regis Business Park	
The Lakes at Beachborough Beachborough Park Newington, Near Folkestone CT18 8BW	07469 809877	New Road, Sheerness, Kent ME12 1HA	01795 661089
	07409 809877	South London Angling Centre	
Tricklebrook Fishery Colts Hill, Five Oak Green TN12 6SH	07743 955812	286 Lee High Road, London SE13 5PJ	0208 852 4451
	07743 955612	Sussex Bait Developments	
Willows Angling Centre	01705 520997	Falkenvil Fishery, Saltmarsh Lane, Hailsham BN27 2RJ	07971 303949
Bax Farm, Lower Road, Teynham ME9 9BU	01795 520887	The Tackle Box	
Wylands Farm Powdermill Lane Battle TN33 OSLI	01/2// 902204	251 Watling Street, Dartford DA2 6EG	01322 292400
Wylands Farm, Powdermill Lane, Battle TN33 0SU	01424 893394	Angling Clubs & Societies	
Trout Fisheries		Bromley (Kent) & District AS PO Box 895, East Grinst	ead RH19 9ND
Brick Farm Lakes Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux BN27	4RS 01323 832615	Email: bdas-kent-enquiry	
Cinder Hill Fly Fishing Membership available from:		Cinder Hill Fly Fishing	01892 770903
Email: r.nathan@btinternet.com	01892 770903	Membership available from email: r.natha	
Coltsford Mill Trout Fishery & Fly Tackle Shop		Hastings Bexhill & District	
Mill Lane, Oxted, Surrey RH8 9DG 01883 71566	66 / 07798 605867	Postal enquiries to S.Corke, 2, The Sidings, Bexhill On Se	
Spring Hill Trout Waters		Chris Pagan 07429 655237 / Steve Pot	
Albans Farm, Romford Road, Pembury TN2 4BB	07951 304515	Linton Angling Society Jason Tuckey of or email lassecretary@lin	on 07983 569220
Tenterden Trout Waters Coombe Farm, Chennell Par	k Road, Tenterden		.conanginig.co.uk
TN30 6XA www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk	07880 722868	Tonbridge & District A & FPS	.,
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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

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