

# FRESHWATER INFORMER

Issue 335 - July 2025

**Joe Webb - Just one  
of the many high-  
lights from an  
awesome session at  
Brooklands**

**Free  
Magazine**

**Catch Up With:**

**Medway Man**

**Fishing Tail Films**

**The Friendly Fisherman**

**In The Edge With Alex**

**Jim's Journey**

**Diary of a Match Angler**

**Elise Oxley (Guest)**

**Jame "Big Fish" Lock (Guest)**

**URBAN**

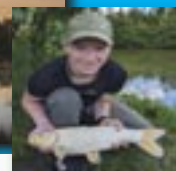
**Sandwich  
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email: [enquiries@sandwichlakes.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@sandwichlakes.co.uk)

**[www.sandwichlakes.co.uk](http://www.sandwichlakes.co.uk)**

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## ORCHARD PLACE FARM FISHING

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**Catfish to 112lb+**

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

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(additional charge for 3rd rod)

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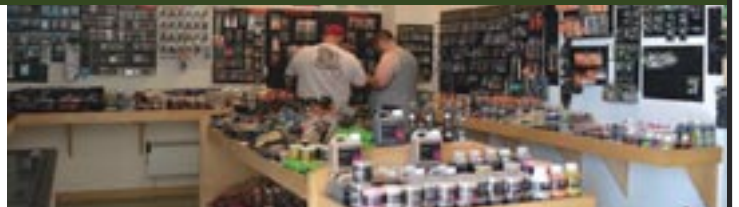
### MATCH/ PLEASURE LAKES

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

**FOOD IS AVAILABLE ON SITE FROM MID-MARCH TO OCTOBER**

**[www.orchardplacefarmfishing.co.uk](http://www.orchardplacefarmfishing.co.uk)**

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



## NEW TO ORCHARD PLACE FARM! HORSMONDEN FISHING LAKES

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**Horsmonden Fishing Lakes, Grovehurst Road, Horsmonden TN12 8BQ**

**All enquiries and bookings to Orchard Place Farm Fishery on 01892 838576**

## Welcome to the July edition of The Freshwater Informer

As we ease into summer, June has treated us to some glorious weather—plenty of sunshine, long evenings, and just enough wind to keep anglers guessing! The warmer temperatures have stirred the waters, and once again, our inbox has been bursting with your catch reports, stories, and stunning photos.

Thank you all for sharing your passion with us. This month's issue has been a real joy to put together. We're especially excited to welcome Elise Oxley and James "Big Fish" as guest contributors. Elise and Jamie Lock both had cracking sessions over at Wylands, and their write-ups are packed with the energy and excitement that comes with a successful trip.

Jim also found himself back at Wylands—this time on New Speci Lake with Katelyn.

They enjoyed a chilled-out 24-hour session. While the fish may have been elusive, the smiles certainly weren't in short supply.

One of the standout stories this month comes from Andy Lush, who took his rods to Portugal in search of Iberian barbel. Fishing new waters is always a challenge, but Andy's report is full of insight and inspiration. It's a great reminder of the joy that comes with chasing unfamiliar species in unfamiliar places.

Another real highlight has been the wave of juniors getting involved and sending in their catches.

It's brilliant to see the next generation falling in love with angling—these are the moments that stay with you for life, and it's a pleasure to share them with our readers.



As for me? I only managed a quick five-hour session, but I've been busy visiting venues on the motorbike with Jim, scoping out a few spots I'm hoping to return to with a rod in hand.

If you've got a venue you think we should visit, or a story to share, don't hesitate to get in touch. Until next time—tight lines and enjoy every second on the bank.

*Have a great month, The FWI Team.*

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**The Freshwater Informer**  
email: [info@freshwaterinformer.com](mailto:info@freshwaterinformer.com)

**COPY DEADLINE for August 2025 Magazine**  
**Friday 18th July 2025 at 5pm**

*The Freshwater Informer cannot accept responsibility for the quality of goods or services advertised in this publication. All views expressed are those of the contributors concerned. All images received are accepted as being true and accurate and as described.*





Natalie Jackman 27-08  
Snipe



Shane Wiltshire 31-08 Snipe



Terry Edwards 18-04 Majors



Karl Wallis Maze



Simon Gore 27-11 Snipe



Henry Symmonds 30-07  
Daughters



Ian York 34-15 Snipe



Mark Dillon 32-06 Snipe



Martin Smith 52-08 1 of 7  
Westlake



Steve Deeley 57lb



Freddie on Eden Pond

Eastbourne Road (A22),  
Newchapel, Lingfield, Surrey RH7 6HL  
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Mobile: 07710 656041

[www.beaverfarmfishery.co.uk](http://www.beaverfarmfishery.co.uk)

Email:

[beaverfarmfishery@live.co.uk](mailto:beaverfarmfishery@live.co.uk)

Facebook: beaverfishery



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.

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- On Site Tackle Shop
- 9 Car Parks including Disabled Friendly Parking
- Shower/Wetroom
- Disabled Friendly Toilets
- Seasonal Snack Bar with Hot and Cold Food
- 1 hut available for hire



Concessionary Tickets for Junior, Disabled and OAPs

No pre-bookings taken for swims

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6pm (Winter)

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 DAY TICKET X3 RODS - £20  
 24 HOUR TICKET X2 RODS - £30  
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 36 HOUR TICKET X2 / X3 RODS - £45 / £55  
 48 HOUR TICKET X2 / X3 RODS - £60 / £70



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A 4 acre specimen lake stocked with big Catfish up to 50lbs, huge Carp up to 40lbs, big Perch up to 6lbs and beautiful Roach over 3lbs. And a 1 acre match fishing lake teaming with a variety of species weighing up to 28lbs.



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Telephone bookings are to be paid in advance and are non-refundable • Credit and Debit cards now accepted

## LAKE RULES

1. A TICKET MUST BE PURCHASED BEFORE FISHING
2. ALL NETS, UNHOOKING MATS AND WEIGH SLINGS MUST BE DRY BEFORE DIPPING IN THE DISINFECTANT BATHS
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
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

**CCTV IN OPERATION  
OVER WHOLE SITE**

**OPENING TIMES**  
 SUMMER 7AM - 7PM WINTER 7AM TO DUSK





# Russ Evans

## Dreaming of Big Roach is a big part of Catching One!

I have fished for roach all my angling life whether it be for pleasure trips, match fishing and more of late specimen targeting using various methods and baits. But let's start at the beginning of those very early days in my teens spent fishing on the rivers of the London Anglers Association controlled sections of the Suffolk Stour.

### Pitmore Lock in the 1970s

As on many occasions, I was awake long before the alarm went off. The excitement of going fishing never mixed well with a good night's sleep—my mind too busy thinking about what kind of trip it would be and whether I could fish my favourite swim on the Stour at Pitmore Lock. I'd hear the alarm ringing in my parents' room and count the buzzes before Dad turned it off—normally on three—then came the floorboards creaking, bathroom light flicking on, and finally his footsteps to my room to check I was awake. By the time I'd washed, dressed, and headed downstairs, Dad was already pouring hot tea into a flask and packing sandwiches into our Efgeeco seat boxes, which were waiting in the hallway along with rod holdall and wellies. We'd listen for the sound of a car outside, then carry



our tackle out to greet his friend Ernie, who loved his roach fishing, before setting off on the hour-and-35-minute drive to Suffolk from Forest Gate where we lived. We'd made this journey many times, in all sorts of weather and at different times of year, and each trip



felt like an adventure for me—a teenager who couldn't get enough of fishing. It was at Pitmore Lock that I caught my first roach over a pound—a fish that seemed enormous at the time—and a couple more nearly matched it. That great session came from my favourite swim, just off a bend with the river narrowing and flowing left to right. The depth was just three feet down the middle, where the roach liked to patrol and feed. My setup was a split cane rod with an Abu 501 closed-face reel, which I still proudly own. Float choice depended on flow: either a quill or straight balsa, both fished top and bottom like a stick float. After plumbing the depth, I'd drop the float an inch to fish just off bottom and spend fifteen minutes trickling in bronze maggots—just a few at a time—before presenting a double maggot hook bait. It usually worked. The first fish were almost always chublets, 8 to 12 ounces, sometimes over a pound. Watching the rod bend and guiding fish to the net was such fun. The chublet spell lasted ten to fifteen minutes before they moved off, returning in short spells throughout the day. That's when I'd begin preparing for roach, knowing they were there but bullied off the bait. Once the float trotted through a few times, I was confident the hookbait was where the redfins fed—and the bites began to change. Soon I was catching my target species, with that particular day yielding a better stamp of roach pushing the pound mark. A 2lb roach then—and still today—is a dream fish for many anglers. Ernie preferred the deep section known as "the Island," and my Dad would tell me stories of him landing 2lb-plus roach on bread flake. Sadly, I never witnessed it, but the stories stuck with me. I returned to my old swim in the 2015/2016 season, forty years later, after getting on the Pitmore syndicate. I'd been warned things had changed, but I wasn't prepared for the reality—my swim was no longer fishable. I struggled to even find it, as it was silted over and full of bulrushes. I stood for ten minutes with a lump in my throat, lost in memory. After composing myself, I fished above the weir and caught 177 roach, from 4oz to 14oz. It was fantastic to know the roach were still thriving in that stretch of river.

### My Best Angling Moment

I have had many enjoyable angling moments over the years especially during my 40 years plus match ca-



reer, but to date I would say what happened on the 5th April 2018 will go down as my best angling moment. Two or three previous trips to Lemington Lakes in the Cotswolds near Moreton-in-Marsh with my much missed fishing buddy Keith Snelgrove, saw a return to the water with my wife for a 2 night stay in the onsite lodges. It gave my wife a nice and relaxing break whilst I filled my boots fishing Abbey Lake which contained quality roach over the 3lbs mark and my target was to catch my first roach over that magic 2lbs mark. I had gone agonisingly close during a Sussex Summer League match a few seasons earlier on the tidal River Arun near Pulborough with the fish weighing 1lbs 15 ounces and 8 drams, that other 8 drams had bugged me ever since and I was determined to put that right.

At Lemington Lakes you could only fish the lakes if you were staying on site so it never got over-fished and being as I was fishing early Spring after a cold Winter I was confident the conditions would be spot on for some excellent roach action. My tackle was a 13ft Preston Sentient rod paired up with my Daiwa match reel loaded with 3lbs line and I set up a Drennan 6 x No 8 pole float running line to present double red maggot over regular light loose feeding. I chose the corner of the lake where a cold and bitter wind was blowing into and by stringing out the No 8 shots shirt button style it was easy to control as I was just flicking out my set up close in and laying 6 inches over depth to pin the bait down but also allowed my bait to sink slowly through the layers in case my regular loosed feeding of 6-8 maggots brought the fish up in the water competing which at times it did.

Fishery rules meant I could not start fishing until 8am and had to be off the water at 6pm so it was critical I made every hour of the day count and much to my pleasure my first bite came after twenty minutes in the shape of a lovely redfin of 1lbs 8oz, a great start that was only going to get better as I started to net quality roach from 1lbs 10z up to 1lbs 10oz in fact I had 21 roach and none under the pound and to cap it all I also had some fantastic perch all over the pound mark with the biggest bang on 3 pounds. Time was pressing and just after 5pm some 15 minutes after pulling out of what I thought was a big roach, my well battered by now pole float buried out of sight as soon as the bait had touched bottom. I lifted into the strike, my rod arched and a powerful fish took line before stopping and then glided to my left before turning and gliding to the right in mid water. It felt different to all the other fish and when I caught the first glimpse of this bar of silver, I could see it was a very big roach and I went to pieces. I could hear my heart beating in my ears and pounding in my chest as I became very nervous that the hook which I could see in the top lip would ping out.

My luck held out as I slipped the net pan under the fish, the sheer elation of catching a roach so big made

me very emotional as I knew this was a special moment in my angling career. With the roach nestling in the net pan by the waters edge I just stared at it for



a couple of minutes as it turned over from side to side. It looked well over the magic 2lbs mark and on the scales weighed 2lbs 10 ounces and 4 drams, what a fish, what a moment, what a day never to be forgotten.

For more fishing content please check out my YouTube channel Fishing Tail Films

Tight Lines  
Russ Evans



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## Elphicks Fishery - Kent



Billy Wells, Westend lake



Billy Wells, Westend lake



Paul Holman westend Lake.



Adam Brend 40.4 North lake



Grant Chaplin 35.3  
Prairie lake



Paul Holman westend Lake.

**Speci 1:** The carp have woken up and are being caught over baited areas of sweetcorn and pellet, or fishing PVA bags close to the islands or inner margins. With every fish caught, they're topping up the baited area with a couple more spombs. Perch fishing has rewarded anglers willing to target them, with some just shy of 4lb. These fish have been caught on float tactics using worm or maggot and consistently feeding maggots with a catapult to keep rudd and roach in the swim, attracting big perch. Some have also been caught on small jelly lures.

**Speci 2:** The carp have been coming out by fishing to margins with solid PVA bags or mesh bags and fruity/sweet boilies like Cell and Pineapple. Catfish dominate this lake and often push carp out as they eat anything. To target catfish, use high-attract boilies or pellets like krill or marine halibut over a large bed of fishy-

soaked pellet. The catfish are waking up, with the biggest at 30lb so far.

**Heron:** Anglers have had a cracking time catching large mixed bags of silvers and carp on float and method tactics. Baits working include maggots, castors, and worms over a ball of groundbait for float fishing, while feeder fishing suits banded 10mm pellets. Don't forget surface baits-fish are now feeding off the top with the warmer weather.

**Kingfisher:** This lake produces lovely mixed bags all year, especially in winter. Fish can be caught on top two pole sections using any bait.

**Bluebell:** Tench are showing in numbers with the warmer weather. The key is to bait little and often with a pole pot or catapult, adding a ball of groundbait now and then to keep them feeding. Good-size carp up to 10lb have also come out, with the odd 1lb rudd and roach showing.

## Elphicks Fisheries



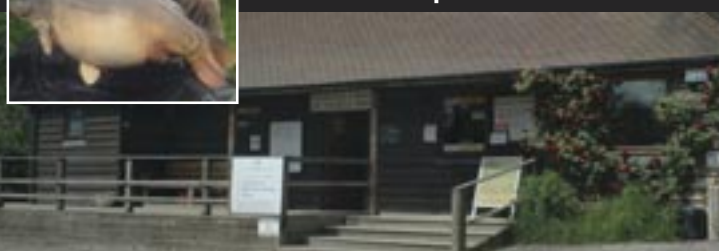
Elphicks has been designed and built with the modern angler in mind. We have 7 lakes available for day ticket and session fishing. Each lake has it's own parking within easy reach of the swims and all swims are 'all weather' - either built of Astroturf, stone or bark. Please contact the fishery for further information on any of our lakes.



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**www.elphicks-fisheries.co.uk**





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*This beautiful setting needs to be visited and enjoyed!*

Prices start at £10 per session on the coarse lakes. For the specimen lakes prices start at £20 for the day rising to £30 for a 24hrs ticket (up to 3 rods). Lessons now available for all ages. Gates open at 7am and close at 6.30pm (Winter hours 7am to 5pm)

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Bream and other silvers



[www.newclaygatelakes.co.uk](http://www.newclaygatelakes.co.uk)



### Claygate Membership & Day Ticket

Matthew Good has recently caught his third 40-pound fish from Lake Amy, which he has named "The JD" in honor of regular anglers.

Claygate offers both day and night ticket fishing, and in response to the cost of living, they are providing a 12-month membership for all lakes.

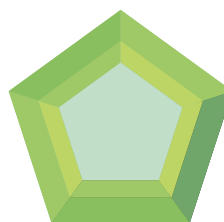
Members can stay updated on recent catch reports by following "Dave Claygate" on Facebook.

For more information, interested individuals are encouraged to visit the website or drop by on weekends to discuss membership.

Bookings can be made through Swimbooker, and both card and cash payments are accepted.

Additionally, a snack wagon is available daily, serving hot and cold drinks and snacks, with food offered on weekends.

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For further details contact: **Jason Tuckey** on 07983 569220

e-mail: lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk

**www.lintonangling.co.uk**



Molly Cooke - Koi from a Local Club Water

### TONBRIDGE & DISTRICT ANGLING & FISH PRESERVATION SOCIETY

To mark our 150th Anniversary, we ran a Spring League over 4 matches on Haysden Lake. 24 anglers competed, with a strong local turnout. With Roach spawning, winning bags relied on bigger Bream and Tench. Going into the final round, any of the top eight could have taken the win, but a tough day saw most struggle. Chris King climbed to 4th with a solid final performance. Ben Groombridge impressed throughout, finishing 3rd. Andy Goldthorpe secured 2nd with three strong results, totaling 29lb 14oz. Top honours went to Medway Tackle's Richard Taylor, who finished with 4 points and 51lb 12oz.

1st - Richard Taylor	4 pts - 51lb 12oz
2nd - Andy Goldthorpe	4 pts - 29lb 14oz
3rd - Ben Groombridge	4 pts - 19lb 1oz
4th - Chris King	5 pts - 15lb 5oz
Other Match Results	

#### Feeder Match - Haysden Lake - 15th June - 18 fished

1st - Steve Twort	7lb 12oz
2nd - Jim Sene	5lb 9oz
3rd - Phil Edwards	5lb 6oz



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# In The Edge With Alex



**A**s I arrived at the lake I couldn't help but chuckle to myself. A few evenings previous, I had received a call from our editor, Glen, to discuss this month's article. "Something summery" was his remit.

"I've got just the thing." was my enthusiastic response, "Picture the scene. Weeping willows, yellow flag iris, lily pads, and crucian carp. What could be more summery than that?"

"That sounds perfect" replied Glen, "I'll leave it in your capable hands..."

Capable hands I may have, the capability to read a weather forecast, not so much! And so here I was, to wax lyrical on the beauty of our English summers, whilst all around was ravaged by unforgiving winds, and sodden from unrelenting rain.

The willows creaked and groaned, the iris flapped and blustered like long forgotten bunting strewn along a seafront promenade.

I had more chance of suffering hypothermia than sunburn.

A wry smile crossed my face, at least there should still be crucians.

I was fortunate enough to start fishing when crucian carp were still relatively commonplace.



Timid, shy biting fish, they formed an important part of our evolution as anglers. A stepping stone between the inch long suicidal roach and rudd that we cut our teeth on, and the bigger, warier species such as tench, chub and, of course, eventually carp.

Our approach was simple, but surprisingly effective, limited only by our lack of knowledge and the small display of fishing tackle in the

our town's gun shop. The only option we had to acquire angling equipment that was within a cycle ride of home.

3lb Three Fish line, size 16 or 18, Mustad hooks, crowned with the biggest, ugliest, antenna float that our pocket money would stretch to. The more garish coloured bands on the stem the better, and if it took more than half a tub of swanshot to cock, you were sure to be the envy of all who saw you fish. Bait was flour paste, coloured and flavoured by anything that we could sneak out of the kitchen before our mum's noticed. You name it, we tried it. Custard powder, cat food, cake dyes and flavourings, and anything from the spice rack. Some worked well as baits, others were better suited to using as ammunition for our catapults.

We caught fish, some of which would still rate as national specimens, before inevitably moving on to what we believed were bigger and better things. Since then, populations of true crucian carp have been in steady decline, bullied out by stockings of carp, a propensity for hybridisation, and the fact that they make the perfect snack for any passing cormorant, their numbers have plummeted.

I had almost forgotten about our early exploits, until a chance sighting in a tackle shop. I had popped into MFC Outdoors, in Hailsham, for a few bits and pieces, when I spotted a float similar to those we used to use. Far sleeker, and less offensively coloured than our antenna floats, they now carry the much grander title of windbeater floats.

I couldn't resist but buy one, if only for old times sake, and it had been rolling around in my float tube ever since, waiting to be called upon. Well today was that day. Faced with horizontal trees and vertical lilies, I hoped it would live up to its name.

More concerning was the fact that the only rod I had with me was 'Incapability Brown', an antique 12ft fibatube rod with all the structural integrity of wet spaghetti. It only gets one



outing at year, and I thought that plucking crucians from the margins, in calm summer conditions, would be within its somewhat limited ability. However, in the face of a gale I wasn't so sure.

I set up by some lillies and tried baiting up with a couple of handfuls of 2mm pellet. Some went in the water, most blew back into my face and onto the bank behind me. Waiting for a lull in the wind, I tried again with a little more success, and before too long I was fishing. Around 4ft deep at a rod length out, I had the windbeater shotted right down, with a no 4 shot acting as a tell-tale, less than an inch from the hook. When a fish picked up my bait, it would lift the tell-tale shot off of the lake bed, causing the float to pop up and signal a bite. That was the theory, anyway.

Through the waves, the float stirred, then lifted. I struck. Incapability Brown immediately capitulated, before springing back to the other extreme and flinging the poor, unfortunate fish off the hook and catapulting it over a nearby lily pad. A bad workman always blames his tools, and I am no exception. I let forth a tirade, using a series of adjectives to describe the rod which, had they appeared in the original adverts for it, would have done very little to enhance its sales.

After a time, I calmed down in both mood and manner, and was far more restrained when the next chance came. Incapability Brown responded in kind, yielding to the steady, thumping fight of a crucian. For a fish renowned for being timid and finicky, crucian carp display a surprising degree of tenacity when hooked. Much like with gudgeon, you can be forgiven for thinking that you are playing a much larger fish, as they bore away, never wanting to give up. I was taking no chances, and even though it was no more than a few ounces, I used my landing net to avoid any last minute disasters.

And then I stood there, grinning from ear to ear. Despite the rain, despite the wind, despite my limitations of tackle and ability. There before me lay a true blue crucian carp. The chubby face, upturned mouth, rounded dorsal, and blush pink fins, all set against flanks of golden scales. A timeless image of a forgotten era, that so many of our younger anglers will never experience. Nostalgia is a powerful thing, I was genuinely ecstatic at catching such a small fish. The fact that I had numb fingers, my hat drooped and dripped from the rain, my clothes were soaked and I

was covered head to foot in sticky, damp pellets, was instantly forgotten. I had achieved what I had set out to do.

More followed, and I began to hit a rhythm. Dropping the float just past the lillies, then following with a pinch of pellets, would bring an almost instant bite. There was no way that the freebies were getting to the bottom, but I surmised that as the abundant stock of silver fish grabbed at the pellets in the upper layers, so they created a feeding frenzy that galvanised the fish below into action. One fish became two, became five, became ten. I ended up with around twenty. All crucians, all perfect in their own way. As lunchtime approached, I'd had my fill.

I began the soggy process of packing up, I was reminded of the old saying that 'Only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun', well maybe only anglers and idiots stand out in the midday rain! Have a great summer.

**The fishing at Pennybridge Lake is controlled by  
Crowborough and District Angling  
Association - details can be found at  
[www.crowboroughanglers.org.uk](http://www.crowboroughanglers.org.uk)**







## Fish of the Month Prize Winner



Aaron Ball - Mousehole Lakes Fishery  
37lb Common Carp

## FRESHWATER INFORMER

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

[info@freshwaterinformer.com](mailto:info@freshwaterinformer.com) or our Facebook Page,  
Winners will receive a:

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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**

A massive well done to Aaron, and a huge thank you to Urban Bait for providing this brilliant prize.

Your continued support is what makes these giveaways possible! Stay tuned for next month's prize – you won't want to miss it!



Ricky Walker - Hawk-  
hurst Fishery 29lb 4oz



Wayne Gates -  
Menards 36lb  
Common



Logan Hutchison  
The Pond 34lb.2oz



Ryan TSF Baits - PB 26lb  
Common - Brooklands



Joe Webb - Perfect Scaly  
Mirror TSF Baits



Danny Moore - Elusive  
Common - Beaver  
Fishery



Darren Knight - Dove  
Lake Hawkhurst



Alfie Foad - 24lb Mirror  
Mousehole Fishery



Rod "The Bailiff"  
Mousehole Fishery



Adam Oxley - Wylands  
Angling Center - 27lb 10oz  
Common





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## Tricklebrook Fishery



Charlie Onslow -  
Trickle Brook - 31lb  
Common



Cameron George  
Bance landed his new  
Pb at 25lb



Jason - New Lake -  
Common



Martin - New Lake 3rd  
30lb in a week

## Readers Capture's



Mandy Ann Nichols  
Mirror Carp



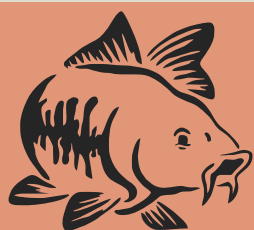
Emma Ettridge - Or-  
chard Place Farm Lake  
12 18.2lb Ghost



Dale Green - Sturgeon  
under the Strawberry  
Moon



Mark Day - Sandwich  
Lakes



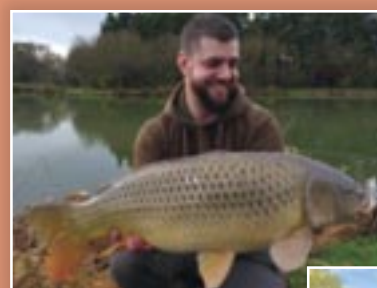
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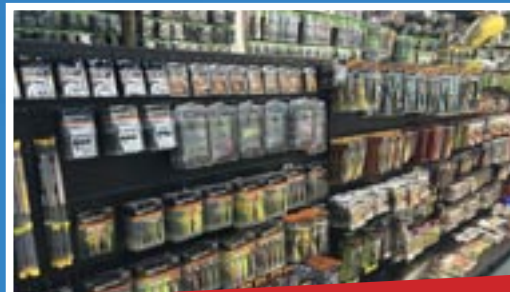
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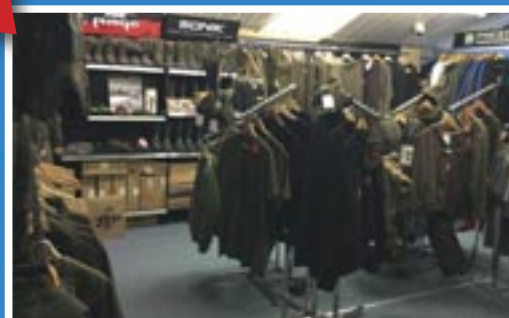
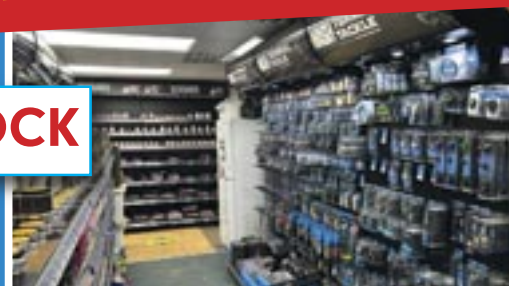


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swimbooker

# JIM'S JOURNEY.

## 24HR ON NEW SPECI @ WYLAND FARM FISHERY

*Chasing Shade and Stillness at Wylands*

With a couple of spare days at the start of what turned out to be the hottest week of the year, I decided to stay local for a bit of relaxed fishing — just me, Katlyn, and the rods.

There's something special about not having to travel far, especially when the goal is to slow things down. So I booked us 24 hours on the New Speci Lake at Wylands Farm Fishery using the **Swimbooker App** — a venue I've come to enjoy more with every visit.

The plan was simple: soak up the sun, catch a few carp, and spend some quality time together on the bank. And that's exactly how it began. We arrived mid-morning and eased into the session. The rods went out with a confident spread — a solid PVA bag on one, a balanced wafter over a few Spombs on another, and a third rod rigged up especially for Katelyn. She doesn't have loads of experience yet, but she's got the enthusiasm, and that's worth more

than anything. I told her it was her job to guard that rod with her life — a task she took very seriously.

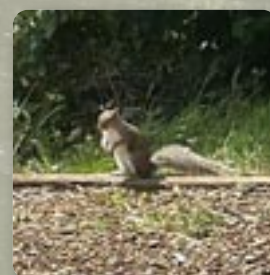
The swim was soon tidy and comfortable, shaded where we could find it, and with the bait prepped and everything sitting just right, we settled in. Unfortunately, the carp had

a go — tossed out a few floaters and watched hopefully — but even the most inquisitive carp weren't in the mood. It was one of those sessions where the water just felt still. The kind of stillness where even nature seems to pause for breath.

As the sun dipped behind the trees and the heat finally started to ease, I managed to hook into something solid. It was a brief but intense battle — the fish powered straight into the lilies out front, a thudding tug followed by slack line. Barbless hooks do their job, and this time, it worked in the carp's favour. I got the rig back intact — no tackle lost, just a missed moment and a few choice words muttered under my breath. With the hook checked and bait replaced, the rig was soon back out on the spot. You never know when that golden feeding window might open, and hope is half the game. The night passed peacefully, and we actually managed a good bit of sleep. By sunrise, we were back up, kettle on, and watching the mist lift from the surface of the lake. That early light is something you can never quite describe — it has to be felt. We sipped tea in the soft glow and listened to the world wake up.

By this point, the sting of sunburn was making itself known. I was glowing a healthy crimson, while Katelyn, annoyingly, looked like she'd just returned from two weeks in the Caribbean — not a single sign of burn, just tanned and cheerful. She found it hilarious, of course.

Breakfast was next — the classic sausage and bacon sarnies on the bankside stove, with a fresh brew in hand. There's



other ideas. With temperatures soaring, most of them were cruising lazily in the upper layers, basking just out of reach. I gave surface fishing



something about hot cuppa and a bacon bap next to the water that just can't be beaten.

The rest of the morning passed with gentle calm. We watched the wildlife go about its business, the ducks gliding by, a heron standing across the water, and a bold little squirrel who decided we were his new best mates. He kept darting back and forth from the undergrowth, clearly angling for a bit of left-



over breakfast. Katelyn was thrilled and made it her mission to name him and try to feed him from her hand — she nearly succeeded, too.

**Bankside Tip**  
Even with good intentions and a decent layer

of sun cream, the heat can creep up on you. Always pack some kind of shade — whether it's a shelter, brolly, or even a makeshift tarp. It makes a huge difference to your comfort, energy levels, and how long you can safely stay bankside during hot spells. Hydrate, rest in the shade when needed, and keep your head covered — "future-you will thank you".



As we packed down around midday, rods reeled in and kit tidied away, I realised that despite the slow

fishing, it had the session I needed. No stress, no pressure, just quiet time shared with someone special.

Sometimes, it really isn't about the fish on the bank. It's about being there — present, calm, connected. And in that sense, the trip was a complete success.

Until the next journey,

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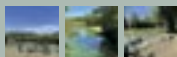
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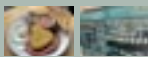
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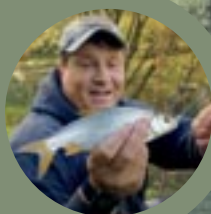
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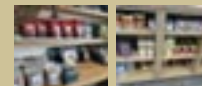
## LYONS GATE

📍 CERNE ABBAS, DORSET

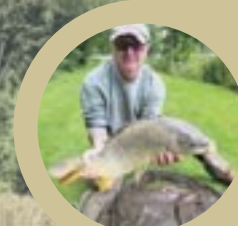
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We're delighted to announce the appointment of two new fishery managers at Wylands: Taylor and Ollie. Both are passionate anglers with extensive experience in fishery and estate management, and they bring fresh ambition, energy, and a shared vision to enhance the fishery and the overall experience for our visitors.



Taylor has over 20 years of experience managing rural estates and fisheries across the UK and France. A graduate of Sparsholt College in Countryside Management and Fisheries, he has worked on large private estates, managed specimen carp waters, and overseen diverse wildlife and land projects. Taylor's hands-on approach and deep understanding of conservation, fishery development, and estate operations will be instrumental in delivering high-quality, sustainable angling at Wylands.

We're excited for what's ahead. With Taylor and Ollie at the helm, Wylands is set for a new chapter of excellence, conservation, and memorable fishing.



Ollie, a lifelong angler raised on the Thames, brings 15 years of cross-sector experience across aquatics, aquaculture, and conservation. He's worked with both marine and freshwater species, run his own consultancy, and contributed to national habitat restoration and native species reintroduction projects. His commitment to the angling community and desire to elevate Wylands as a top-tier fishery is matched only by his enthusiasm to meet and connect with our anglers.

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**Meet: 09:00**  
**Fish: 10:30-14:30**

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Juniors must be U17  
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# Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman

Part 1 of 2

A return to the Iberian peninsula was long overdue.

This was going to be an adventure, my quest was to fly fish for Iberian barbel. I've been unable to do this for several years, due to the severe drought in southern Spain. That was until very recently, when Spain and Portugal had experienced almost biblical amounts of rain, adding as much as 80% to the water levels of their reservoirs!

Alqueva reservoir - I'd never fished in Portugal before, but I'd heard about an enormous reservoir in the Alentejo region that caught my attention. Alqueva, is said to be the largest man-made reservoir in western Europe. You can actually hire cruisers, houseboats and explore this inland sea. I usually go on these adventures with my good



Explore Alqueva in comfort and style

friends, James Gardner, Mark Bryant and Gary Collins. However, this was going to be a bit of a recce, and I didn't want Mark or Gary wasting any of their precious holiday time, on what could easily be a "wild goose chase". James and I are both retired, so we can gamble on a speculative trip. If it didn't work out we still had another fifty weeks to take another break. However a clash of dates meant James couldn't join me. So I'd be travelling alone.

Contacts - Fortunately I have two former customers who live in Portugal. Russell Hoad runs a guiding service 'Wild Fishing Portugal'. Russell is based in Mértola in the Alentejo region and can be contacted on Facebook. Russell has spent several years exploring this region and can now offer access to many unspoilt lakes and rivers. He can provide tackle for a variety of methods, including float and feeder fishing, or lure and fly fishing. What can you catch? Carp, tench, 5 species of barbel, zander, black bass, channel catfish, allis shad and even mullet. Night fishing is allowed in some areas, so

you can bivvy up. Or take advantage and stay at his three-bedroom house, this is what I did. Another service Russell offers is to obtain fishing licences, this will save you wasting precious time! My other contact, Neil Perry has settled in the Algarve since retiring. Although when we met up he seemed as busy as ever! He now calls the Algarve home, with dry summers and temperate winters, can you blame him? Neil is a passionate angler who enjoys fly and lure fishing, in fresh and saltwater. Although Neil's not a fishing guide, several of his friends are, and his local knowledge was a great help when I started planning this trip.



Fuseta is still a busy fishing port

The Algarve - I started my trip with a few relaxing days around the small fishing town of Fuseta, where Neil Perry lives. One morning we drove along the coast to Olhao and took a ferry across a saltwater lagoon to one of the barrier islands that protects the mainland. Most passengers were heading to the golden sandy beaches. We however headed to the breakwater, it runs alongside the inlet, that flows into and out of the lagoon. We had rods, a selection of lures, and flies, with high hopes!

There was a scum-lane all along the boulder-strewn breakwater, in it were scores of feeding mullet. Beyond the scum-lane was a tide rip, a noted bass "hot spot". Plan A, we started casting a variety of hard lures, surface poppers and shallow diving minnows, without success! Plan B, I explored further down the breakwater towards the sea. No bass there, but even more mullet! None were particularly big, but there were thousands of them! Plan C, I knew it was hopeless, but I had to try. I started fly fishing, with the few mullet flies I'd brought with me. I used a floating line with two flies, the dropper was a floating shrimp, which held



the small size 12 and 14 nymphs shallow enough for the mullet to see them. BTW, all the nymphs had a red tag, which I know mullet like, unfortunately they didn't this time!

As the evening approached, we started heading back to the ferry dock. Not before making a few casts around a small jetty, in a small sheltered bay, well it looked so fishy. I was casting a shallow suspending minnow jerkbait. This allowed me to mix up the retrieve, with an occasional pause, followed by a few twitches, before leaving it motionless. I watched its progress intently, as it swam back towards the shore. I made casts close to anchored boats, mooring buoys and even shoreline weedbeds. To my disappointment, nothing seemed interested. That was until I started casting under and around the wooden stantions of the jetty. In the clear water, I saw two dark shapes tracking my bait. I paused the retrieve, gave the lure a twitch, then another, immediately the shapes closed in for the kill. I was running out of line, so continued with the twitches. To my surprise, one fish found this irresistible, I hooked it but it came adrift! On the next cast, the remaining fish closed in rapidly, I had to keep twitching the lure again to keep it interested. This time I made no mistake



A "finger ripping" triggerfish!

and set the hook into my first ever triggerfish! As I tried to unhook it, I did a very silly thing. The triggerfish's mouth was quite small, which made prising the treble hook out quite difficult.

To gain more purchase, I gripped its mouth, a big mistake! Im-

mediately its powerful jaws clamped down on my finger, and I felt its razor sharp teeth slice a chunk off my finger, ouch!

'Fly fishing Algarve' Neil put me in contact with Marco de São Vicente who runs 'Fly Fishing Algarve'. If you are ever in the Algarve and want to go fly fishing for barbel, black bass and carp, or prefer to tackle sea bass, look no further! You can contact Marco via Facebook, or his website. Marco is a master of his craft, a passionate angler who is extremely knowledgeable about the fish and their habitat, which extends to the local flora and fauna. Before we started, Marco ran through the tackle we would be using for barbel with a dry fly. He recommended a 9ft #5 rod, check, obviously a

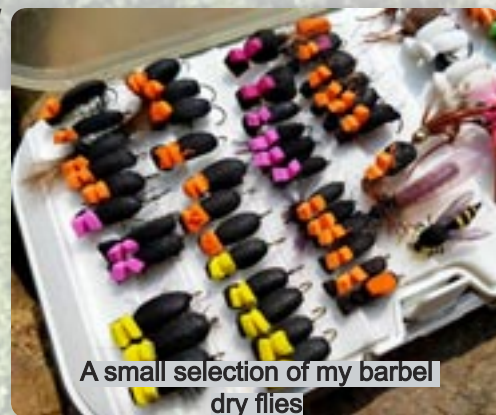
floating line, check, leader material fluorocarbon? Check! I've never met a fly angler with more experience of barbel fly fishing than my friends and I, so it was good to compare tackle choices with him. To find him using exactly the same leader material, in the same diameter and breaking strain was amazing! We both use 'Seaguar Ace Hard', for its reliability and abrasion resistance. Although fluoro sinks, we rarely leave the fly on the surface long enough for this to happen.

Marco took me to one of his secret spots, well off the beaten track, yet within an hour's drive of the coast. A small un-named stream meandered through an unspoilt valley on its way to the sea. We clambered over fallen trees, waded through cool crystal clear water, while all the time Marco scanned the water ahead for signs of life. He adopted what he called his "ninja approach", creeping low to the ground, using any available cover. No treading on bamboo canes he warned me, even a heavy foot fall or a snapping branch, would be enough to alert these wily fish of our presence! Suddenly he froze, then indicated where a barbel was lying.

Finally I was going to make my first cast, I felt nervous, I didn't want to stuff up this chance. Fortunately my black foam beetle landed close enough to where Marco had indicated, and a feisty "small-headed" barbel engulfed my fly without hesitation! I was so pleased and relieved. Pleased because I'd tied the fly myself. Relieved I'd got the "monkey off my back". What followed was both fascinating and exhausting, as I watched "a master at work". Marco often saw fish that were invisible to me. By the time I saw them, they had already seen me and bolted for cover! Fortunately I managed to catch two more fish, both were 'gypsy barbel, AKA mediterranean', another new species for me.



Another first, a two-tone gypsy barbel



A small selection of my barbel dry flies

Until next month, tight lines.

*Andy Lush*



# Junior Competition Winners

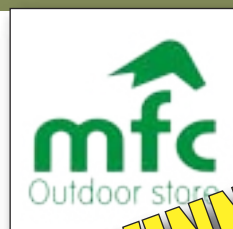


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Fish With Carl

## MFC Store Prize Winner – William Etridge



Big congratulations to William Etridge, our latest MFC Store Winner, who sent in these three fantastic captures from a recent session at Orchard Place Farm! William banked two cracking Carp at 12lb and 14lb, along with a chunky 17lb Catfish – top angling and brilliant photos to match! Well done, William – a well-deserved winner! 🐟👏 Keep those catch reports coming for your chance to feature and win!



## Fish With Carl Winner: Max Fox

Max Fox a Young regular contributor Max has smashed his personal best with a stunning 17lb Common Carp caught from Cottingham's Lakes. Max, who has featured in the Freshwater Informer before, continues to impress with his dedication and passion for the sport. Well done Max – great angling and a new PB to be proud of!



Keep an eye out for more junior angling achievements in upcoming issues, and don't forget to send in your own catches for a chance to be featured!





Freddie Sadd Double  
Take Brace



Zac Brown - Hythe Canal  
- Perch



Harvey Goodsell - 5lb Smooth  
Hound - Pevensey Bay



George Bartholomew -  
Orchard Place - 17lb Cat



Theia Ayles (8) 11lb 2oz  
(new PB)



Millie Bowles - Monk Lakes  
- 27lb 8oz Common



Jacob - Private Lake -  
Mirror Carp



George Bartholomew - 9lb  
Common



Theo Watling (8yrs) 21lb  
Common Mushroom Farm



Harli Cook - Chequertree -  
28lb 5oz - SBS Coconut



Nancy Breen - Eureka -  
17.02lb Common Carp



Young Angler From Greenacres



Young Angler Cat Fish @  
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Jasper Breeze First Time  
out with Float and Maggots



Kit Breeze - Littlebourne  
Lakes - Mirror Carp



Archie Haynes - New PB  
25lb 4oz - Mirror Carp



Oliver Moxley - 14lb Carp  
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Brayden Parsons - New  
PB 22lb - Normanshurst



Hunter Perren - (5yrs)  
Tench



Jacob - Piddinghoe - 20lb  
Mirror





## *Elise's Fishing Adventure: A Session to Remember at Wylands Farm Fishery*

At just 8 years old, **Elise Oxley** is already making waves in the world of angling.

Her recent session at Wylands Farm Fishery's New Specimen Lake was one to remember — not just for the fish caught, but for the memories made between father (Adam) and daughter.

We arrived at Wylands on the 29th of May, ready for a couple of days' fishing and some proper quality time together. The rods were baited up with Parkerbaits and positioned carefully to the island margins. It wasn't long before Elise was into her first ever mirror carp – a lovely old dark warrior of a fish at 12lb, full of character and battle scars. We named him Warrior, and he truly looked the part.



Soon after, Elise was in again – this time with a beautifully clean 16lb mirror. To say she was buzzing is an understatement. Her biggest fish of the session, though, was a pristine 18lb common that gave her a proper scrap. Each fish was special, and every



moment was made even better by watching her grow in confidence with every take.

While Elise was catching her first mirrors and biggest fish to date, Adam managed to get amongst a few himself, landing 21 carp in total. I was lucky enough to bank four twenties, including a lovely 27lb 10oz common and a 25lb 4oz mirror.

"But honestly? The weight and numbers didn't matter. Seeing Elise take it all in, from baiting up to playing and landing fish, was what this trip was really about. No tablet, no TV – just the two of us and the buzz of the alarms."

Wylands provided the perfect backdrop – peaceful, well-kept, and full of surprises. If you're a parent looking to introduce your child to the joys of angling, we can't recommend it enough. Elise is already planning our next trip and, by the looks of it, I'll be playing second fiddle on the rods again. And I wouldn't have it any other way.

Photos submitted by Adam & Elise Oxley  
session dates: 29th–30th May,  
Wylands Angling Centre – New Speci Lake.



Warrior

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Ricky Young



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# Sussex Fishing Gurus Tackle Maisie's Lake

By James Bigfish Lock

## A Week to Remember at Wylands

Earlier this spring, the Sussex Fishing Gurus embarked on their biggest adventure yet—an 8-day, 7-night session on the famed Maisie's Lake at Wylands Farm, and what a week it turned out to be. The team set their sights on two of the UK's most hard-fighting species: catfish and carp. With a strong plan, varied tactics, and good banter to carry them through, every angler walked away with new personal bests, aching arms, and unforgettable memories.

## The Mission: Big Cats and Beautiful Carp

Maisie's Lake, one of Wylands' premier venues, has long held a reputation for its resident catfish and quality carp, but no one expected just how productive this session would become. The Sussex Fishing Gurus were hoping for a few bites and perhaps a PB or two. What they got was nothing short of epic.

Throughout the session, the lake gave up a total of 18 catfish, ranging from a cheeky 3lb all the way up to a monstrous 65lb, caught by team member Kieran—a fish that shattered his previous personal best and set the tone for the rest of the week. Every member of the group managed to improve their UK catfish PBs, a testament not only to the lake's stock but also to the team's strategic approach and dedication.

## Catfish Tactics That Delivered

The catfish were clearly feeding hard, and the Gurus tested a range of approaches to find what worked best. Although a few cats were caught on varied rigs, the standout tactic was a snowman boilie rig and double halibut pellets, presented over a generous bed of free offerings. This classic method, combining smell, size, and staying power, proved deadly effective.

"The key," one member said, "was keeping the feed going in little and often. Once the fish arrived, we kept them interested without overdoing it."

The team worked hard to maintain their baiting strategy across the week, regularly topping up swims with oily halibut pellets and broken boilies to keep the big whiskered residents grubbing around. Once the bites started coming, they rarely slowed down.

## Personal Bests and Personal Battles

It wasn't just Kieran who enjoyed success—every member banked a catfish over their previous UK best, with the bulk of the fish ranging between 20lb and 40lb, and a few punching well above that. Night-time proved particularly productive, with screaming takes under the stars and some long, hard battles that left the anglers more exhausted than the fish.

"There were moments," one angler laughed, "where I honestly didn't know if I was winning the fight, or just along for the ride."

## Carp in the Mix

While the cats stole the show, the carp fishing was far from quiet. Over the week, the group landed seven carp, with weights between 8lb and 23lb, topped by a beautiful 24lb mirror. These fish came to more delicate tactics—smaller hookbaits like wafers and trimmed-down boilies fished over pellets and light particle beds.

The team knew that scaling down would be necessary to tempt the carp in a lake where bait-heavy cat tactics can dominate, and their adaptability paid off.

"Getting the balance right was tricky," one angler said. "Too much bait and you'd draw the cats in; too little and the carp weren't interested. Once we found the sweet spot, the carp started coming."

## The Spirit of the Trip

Beyond the fish, it was the spirit of the trip that made it special. The week was filled with camaraderie, laughter, shared tips, and endless cups of tea. From early morning coffee debriefs to mid-night run chaos, it was a proper angling experience—where success was shared and every take, whether landed or lost, was celebrated.

A couple of anglers even turned the trip into a mini-cook-off, bringing along BBQs, slow cookers, and their best bank-side culinary creations. Good food, better friends, and bent rods: what more could you want?

## Looking Ahead

As the week came to a close, rods were packed away with reluctance, and lines reeled in for the last time. Every angler left with a full camera roll, a few sore muscles, and a new appreciation for what Maisie's Lake can offer.

"We'll definitely be back," the group agreed. "Maisie's gave us memories we won't forget. But more than that, it gave us motivation. We're already planning the next one."

With venues being discussed, tactics refined, and PBs now reset, the Sussex Fishing Gurus are raring to go again. Whether it's cats, carp, or something completely different, one thing's for sure—this group knows how to make the most of their time on the bank.

## Final Word

To any anglers considering a trip to Wylands, Maisie's Lake deserves a spot on your hit list—especially if you've got a score to settle with a big catfish. And if you're lucky enough to share the lake with a crew like the Sussex Fishing Gurus, you'll leave with more than just fish on the mat—you'll gain a proper fishing experience.

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# Medway Man

## Bob Morris

Medway Man - July 2025

As I was saying in the last issue, I have been looking forward to the opening night's session of the new river season on 16th of June and I must say that although I would love to now report that it did not disappoint, I can't, because it sort of did.

I was even considering cancelling it as a reconnaissance visit the previous week had shown that the river was not at its best and desperately in need of some rain and despite a few storms and heavy showers it was looking a bit sluggish and on top of this I had heard that the fish were still spawning on a couple of the stretches that I was considering. Always a bit of a lottery on the first week or two of new season. Anyway, I went ahead and fished for the opening eight hours - as tradition would dictate.

Although several good fish had moved in my chosen swim during the hours of darkness, I only managed one belting take, which I missed completely at 2am and a couple of 'chubby' taps just after first light - it was all very quiet. Will this put me off? Not a bit, in fact I can't wait to get back and give it

another go, preferably after a bit of extra flow has started. Forecasts don't look good for this however, but this will not stop me from trying several other swims on the same stretch shortly. The prospects for drought

conditions seem strong now with various water companies predicting hosepipe bans /shortages etc. Surely, they can't have got it wrong can they?

I have to say that I thoroughly enjoyed being back on the river, soaking up the atmosphere again. I was serenaded by a pair of Tawny Owls during the night while the sight of two young deer arriving for a drink soon after dawn raised my spirits and elevated the session considerably. I am indeed very fortunate to enjoy my surroundings in this way, and it also means that every trip is unique and has its own charms.

Fortunately, I don't have to give up my day job in the form of my tench efforts and I'm pleased to say that this is still going rather well with most visits producing action and multiple catches of up to eight fish in a session being frequent.

Unfortunately, the only water that was likely to give me a chance of getting a larger fish has yet to produce for me and is currently becoming a bit of a grudge match between us - particularly as I normally do well there and I'm not used to blanking.





One of my favourite trips recently was when I took my six-year-old granddaughter 'Clara' on a visit to a well-stocked pool and was delighted to witness the landing of her first two carp. We did not weigh them as it did not seem to matter and because one of them was bigger than my best on the day!

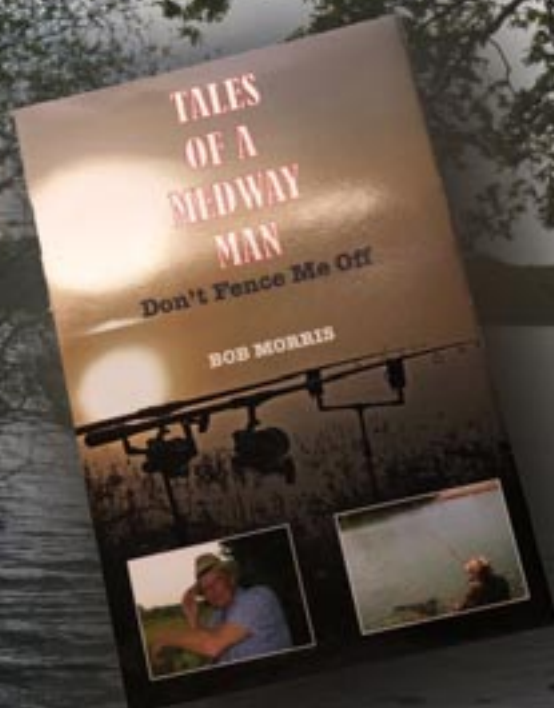
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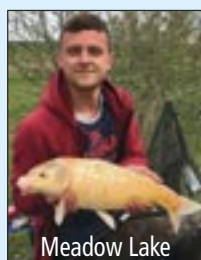
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