

FRESHWATER INFORMER

Issue 338 - October 2025

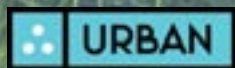


Catch Up With:

Medway Man
Fishing Tail Films
The Friendly Fisherman
In The Edge With Alex
Plus Special Guest Writers

**Free
Magazine**

**Maria Fortune
Cranbrook and District
Club Water 6lb 9oz Tench**



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Bottom Lake
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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 October edition of The Freshwater Informer

As we draw into autumn, the school holidays are behind us, the temperatures have dipped, and that much-needed rain has finally arrived. With it, the banks have started to quieten down, offering those special, calmer sessions that so many of us look forward to at this time of year.

Jim and I haven't graced the bank quite as much this month, but Jim has kindly handed his regular pages over to Si Fishes, who has put together a fantastic piece centred around his YouTube channel. Meanwhile, Alex, Andy, Russ, and Bob have all been out and about, producing some brilliant features that really showcase the wealth of angling opportunities across our region.

On our Facebook page, we recently asked you to share your non-carp captures, and the response was fantastic. I've gathered these together into a feature that highlights the incredible variety of species on offer across our rivers and stillwaters. It's a great reminder that angling is so much more than just carp—it's about enjoying every fish, big or small.



As always, a massive thank you to each and every one of you who reads, shares, and supports The Freshwater Informer. I'm working hard behind the scenes to grow the magazine and bring you even more great content in the months ahead.

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 make the most of every second on the bank.

Have a great month, The FWI Team.

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The Freshwater Informer
email: info@freshwaterinformer.com

COPY DEADLINE for November 2025 Magazine
Friday 24th October 2025 at 5pm

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PINIONS



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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



Hawkhurst Specimen Lake - Ricky Young

Ricky Young made the most of a midweek trip to Hawkhurst Specimen Lake, where the banks were noticeably quieter than usual. His first session since June turned out to be a productive one, landing a couple of cracking 30s along with a stunning mirror to back them up.

"I'm very lucky to have access to such a great lake with a solid stock of good-sized fish,"

Ricky said. "Being able to get down during the week when it's quieter really makes all the difference." Not a bad way to mark his first session in months!



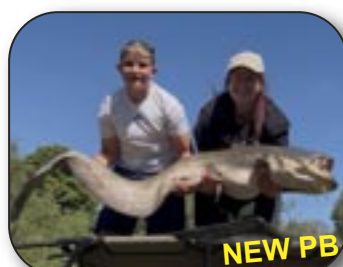
Adam Beaven -
Four Trees Lake



Marc Harris - Hawkhurst Main
Lake - 29lb 4oz



23lb 2oz Common - Dove
Lake - Oscar



56lb Catfish - Four Trees
Lake - Brad new PB



43lb 2oz Common - Speci-
men Lake - Jack Spoor



Dove Lake - Jesse -
31lb 1oz Mirror

2026 Match Lake bookings

Our 2026 diary is now open for exclusive hire of our 20 peg match lake. It is very well stocked with carp from just ounces to over 12lb and makes for a great match day!

Exclusive hire: £175

or

£10 per match angler (for 10+ anglers)



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Greenacres Farm Fishery



Elphicks Fishery - Kent



Lloyd Parker 31lb 8 oz
Prairie lake



Dave Woodcock Pullens
lake 60lb 10oz



Jay Longhurst Plantation
Lake 30lb 1oz



Daniel Hesmer Kettles lake



Karl Owen 45lb Pullens Lake



Kai Millen Prairie Lake.



Logan Hutchingson #NotYorAvrageaanglerr

Logan continues to capture fantastic results from his campaign waters around the region, they dont get a lot better than this or do they...



CATCH CULT ANGLING MAGAZINE

CATCH CULT IS A MULTI SPECIES MAGAZINE AIMED AT THE ALL-ROUND SPECIALIST ANGLER.

IT'S ACTUALLY PRINTED ON PAPER, JUST LIKE THIS ONE!

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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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Horsmonden, Kent TN12 8EL

Tel: **01580 212512**

email: info@elphicks-fisheries.co.uk



www.elphicks-fisheries.co.uk



GREENACRES FARM FISHERY



Sissinghurst Road | Biddenden | Kent | TN27 8EH

Located on the Weald of Kent in Biddenden we offer syndicate quality lakes for all. There is one specimen lake for carp up to 30lbs+ and perch to 5lbs, one specimen predator lake for carp to 30lbs+, catfish to 60lbs+ and pike to 15lbs, one match lake with 22 purpose-built swims, one coarse lake and finally a tench/family pond. Facilities include a club house with toilets, shower and wet room.

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)

SENIOR DAY TICKETS ON OUR COARSE LAKES HERON AND BLUEBELL ARE AVAILABLE FOR £8 MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY

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Email : greenacresfarmfishery@gmail.com





Danny - Monk lakes -
Pinions Tigernut Boilies



Jamie Jones - Brookland-
Lakes - 31lb Common



Colin Beddoe - Fly Caught
26lb Carp - Elphics



Paul Kent - Mousehole
Mirror - 29lb12oz



Antony Wagon - Barbel 11lb 4oz -
River Medway



Jack Hurst - Baldwins Lake Dartford -
8.4lb Tench



Evan Baker - 35lb.8oz
Conningbrook - A fish known as Star
Burst brings a new PB for Evan
A big well done.

These lovely family owned lakes just south of
Maidstone are open all year for you to enjoy!

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COARSE LAKE totals 5.5 acres SPECIMEN LAKE covers 1.4 acres



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charthillakes



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www.charthillakes.co.uk

More House Farm Fishery



catch

catch

In order to fish any of our specimen lakes you must become a member first. To do this simply continue with your catch booking then upon arrival of the venue we will sort out your membership and issue you a membership card. We have been asked to add multiple tiered memberships by you amazing anglers so that's just what we've done!

More House Farm is a rapidly expanding fishery set in the beautiful Mid Sussex countryside. It currently boasts five lakes. They are all set in very tranquil surroundings, bordered almost entirely by open country side.

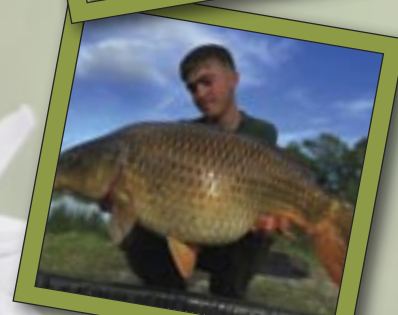
We also have Two new Specimen carp lakes called Oaks and Dogwood that were built June 2020 and opened October 2021. Oaks has 5 pegs on it with carp ranging from 15lb – 33lb.

Dogwood has 11 pegs on it separated by islands we have 18 tench and carp ranging from 8lb – 32 lb and already the lakes are showing great promise and as soon as the Pictures come in I will make a new section on the website for them.

The fishery is located at More House Farm
Lunce's Hill, Wivelsfield RH17 7RE

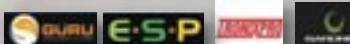
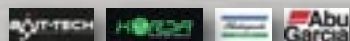
For a map and further directions to find More House Farm please go to our contact page.

www.mhff.co.uk





Located in the heart of New Romney, Romney Angling is a friendly, local, family run fishing supplies shop that was founded in 2021. We pride ourselves on the hundreds of items we provide to fishing lovers around the country. Whether you're a novice or an expert, Romney Angling will have the fishing products you need, and our friendly staff are armed with knowledge to provide any advice or answer queries you may have.



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01797 362889

Info@romneyangling.co.uk



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

Tonbridge & District Catch Report

The Old Ballast Pit has been fishing very well with multiple Carp catches being reported. Good Tench to 6lb and Bream to 7lb being caught. Danny Pashley and Alan Silk have caught some of the larger residents.

Barden Lake still doing well with some nice Carp, Bream and Tench being caught. The Tench fishing has attracted a lot of new members and some great specimens to double figures have been caught.

The Longfield Lake new Carp stock have been coming out to over 25lb. Large Tench and Bream also being caught.

George Howson has been catching some quality Roach on the river to 1lb 10oz. There have also been some quality Perch caught in the matches on the river. Andy Goldthorpe had one of 2lb 8oz.

Cristian Pupazan has done well on small lures along the river, catching some good sized Chub.

Abrey & Tibbets

New Cut - 11 fished - 13/7/25

1st - Austin Battell 13lb 10oz

2nd - Steve Parker 11lb 0oz

3rd - Phil Edwards 10lb 10oz

Match Recorder

Hartlake Down - 13 fished - 20/7/25

1st - Steve Parker 9lb 12oz

2nd - Colin Fowler 6lb 15oz

3rd - Andy Goldthorpe 6lb 1oz

Knock Up Match

Haysden Lake - 12 fished - 14/9/25

1st - Colin Fowler 25lb 8oz

2nd - Phil Edwards 23lb 4oz

3rd - Roger Marsh 5lb 8oz

Float Only Match

Hartlake Up - 16 fished - 17/8/25

1st - Jim Sene 9lb 10oz

2nd - Tom Fowler 7lb 11oz

3rd - Martyn Hill 7lb 10oz



14 miles of River and 7 Lakes containing:

Carp to 52lbs 4ozs, Tench to 12lbs 8ozs, Bream to 19lbs+, Barbel to 15lbs 2ozs, Chub to 5lbs+, Perch to 3lbs 6ozs,

Pike to 31lbs 6ozs, Crucians to 4lbs 6ozs and

Grass Carp to 29lbs 6ozs.

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

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In The Edge With Alex



"Even hardened fishermen have been know to treat bream anglers with disdain"

The woman behind the counter wrinkled her nose. 'That will be six pounds' she said, giving me the sort of look that would normally be reserved for when you find something unpleasant on the sole of your shoe. I dug a crumpled £10 note out of slime covered pockets, complete with a liberal coating of pellet dust, and handed it over to a look of disgust. I could hardly blame her, even hardened fishermen have been know to treat bream anglers with disdain.

I had arrived at the Wallers Haven just as first rays of light fractured the horizon. As commuters raced along and weaved around potholes, so I juggled rods and reels as I weaved around fences and clambered over stiles. I faded into the early morning mist and as I made distance from the urgency of the busy road, so I fell quietly into nature. Birdsong replaced the drone of traffic. The excited chatter of a moorhen, and irritable squawk of a disturbed heron, accompanied by the deep lowing of unseen cattle in the far distance.

The first question that I always ask myself when I visit the Wallers is 'Why don't I fish here more often?' The second is always 'Where do I start?'

Each swim looks as promising as the last, but maybe not as good as the next. As a result I end up trailing across endless fields until fatigue forces my hand and I have to make a decision. I staggered to a halt by a large weed bed. In the half light both ends looked equally good. Rather than waste any more time trying to choose between them, I simply baited both spots. The previous evening I had stewed around a kilo of wheat. As it cooled, I added handfuls of pellets to absorb the excess water. The result is a mix that is sticky enough to be formed into balls, but will breakdown and spread out once on the bottom. Bream were my target, and I hoped that the softened pellets would attract them, whilst the wheat would keep them grazing. I applied three or four good sized balls of bait to either end of the weed bed before setting up on the left-hand

side of it. Usually for me, bream fishing is one of the few times where I swap my normal collection of bits of wood and rusty metal for a carbon rod and fixed spool reel. The sharpest of tackle for the duller of fish? Perhaps, but it just seems to suit the unhurried, and far less frantic, pace of the bream when compared to the other fishing that I do. At the business end I set up a small method feeder to carry a pinch of the pellet and wheat mix, with a softened 6mm pellet on the hook.



As I readied to cast, I noticed some

movement barely a rod length out. Ever so carefully, I lowered the feeder in and let the line fall slack. After a time the line began to twitch. Suddenly, without warning, a great surge of bubbles erupted on the surface as whatever was rooting around in the depths sensed the danger and bolted for cover. Too frantic for a bream, I put it down to a tench, or maybe one of the nomadic carp that inhabit the Wallers.

As the sun rose in the sky and began to hit the water, so tiny roach began to dimple the surface. I scaled up the bank to get a better understanding of the area that I was fishing, and to my dismay realised that far from fishing at the end of the weed bed, I was merely fishing at the end of where it reached the surface. The only clear patch was the small area at the end of the rod tip.

I cursed myself. Dawn is a prime feeding time for bream and I'd wasted most of it fishing on the roof of their watery home!

I reeled in and went to see if the other end of weed bed was any clearer. By now the sun was fully in the sky and I could make out small shoals of roach, as well as a couple of Jack pike loitering with intent.

The second spot was clear of weed, and better still, amass with bubbles. Individual streams trailed around the clearing before re-joining the

central mass. Clearly feeding fish. Clearly a shoal of feeding fish. Clearly where I should have started in the first place...

I hurried to grab my stuff and arrived back just a few minutes later. I prepared to cast, then hesitated. I don't mind admitting that this style of fishing is outside my comfort zone. I would back myself against anyone when it comes to stalking or mobile fishing but building a swim through feeding to target a shoal of fish is not something that I do much of.

Should I cast out? Should I feed more? If the fish had been there from first light, they might have already cleared the bait. If they had just moved in, then I didn't want to risk overfeeding them. Decisions, decisions. In the end I settled on dropping the feeder a couple of feet ahead of one of the more enthusiastic bubblers, then sitting back to await the outcome. The bubbles trailed ever closer before I received the kind of bite that every Carper dreads. Tight, slack, tight slack, slack, slack. I wound down and struck, feeling the satisfying thump of bream on the end of the line.

Although not renowned for their fighting prowess, their drouge like bodies do offer some meaningful resistance when first hooked before they turn and follow the feeder in line a stern.

Over the course of my fishing career I've come to appreciate bream for what they are, and this one was a fine example. Deep bodied with flanks of burnished bronze. The sun picked out every glimmering scale. A minute to savour the

moment, before casting out once more. Three more bream followed in quick succession before the action slowed. The jack pike in the weed bed had been attracted by the disturbance. Too small to trouble the bream, they instead busied themselves by launching themselves at the roach in a splashy and entertaining display

I didn't mind, it gave me a chance to rebait and scrape some of the bream slime off that had accumulated on anything that they had touched.

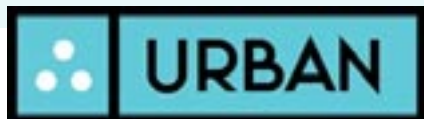
After the lull, the next bite caught me off guard. This fish pulled back with steady determination. I thought that maybe I'd hooked a tench, but just as I saw clearly that the culprit was another bream, the hook pulled. It was a sign to try harder, and harder I tried, but it was clear that the feeding spell was coming to an end and after two more fish I began to slowly pack up.

It was almost lunchtime by the time I arrived back at my car, and on the journey home I decided that I probably deserved some cake. Hence why I was stood in a shop, covered in a mixture of slime and weed.

'Your change' sneered the cashier, ignoring my outstretched, groundbait encrusted hand, and instead dropping the coins on the counter. I pocketed my money and chuckled to myself. I don't mind being a social pariah if it means cake and good bream fishing!

Alex





Fish of the Month Prize Winner



Charlie Hassan land this coming at 35.12 from New Lake Tricklebrook



Sue Darrall - Shirkoak Fishery - Mirror carp 17.9lb



Danny - Monk lakes - Pinions Tiger Nut Boilies



Archie Coombs - 31lbs 1oz Mill lake



Finn Bailey - Claypit Fishery - Common Carp - 29lb 10oz



Mark Day 18lbs - common Sandwich Lakes



Danny Clarke - Club lake - 28lb Mirror



Charlie Keetch 32lb common Tricklebrook



Evan Baker - 35lb.8oz Conningbrook - Star Burst



Ben Reed - Szachty Fishery - 36lb Mirror

FRESHWATER INFORMER

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Winners will receive a:

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Winner's Spotlight A huge congratulations to Charlie Hassan, our latest competition winner! Charlie landed an incredible 35lb 12oz common carp at the New Lake Tricklebrook

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



Jamie Thomas - Mouse Hole Lakes - 30.4lb



Ian Le Beau - Mouse Hole Lakes - 16lb 4oz



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

Readers Capture's



Mandy Ann - Nichols -
Prussian carp



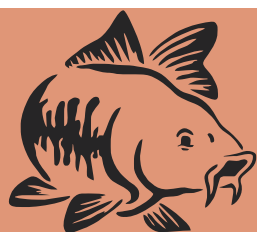
Darren Hogben Lucks
Lane Fishery 28lb Cat



Ryan Hemsley - Common
carp 32lb 1oz - Elphicks



Charlie Brown - 23lb -
Hartlylands (Nicks -Lake)



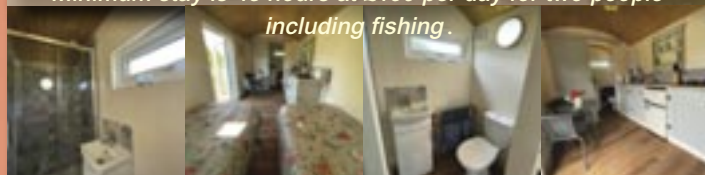
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5lb+ Barbel 4lb+ Perch 3lb+ Bream 11lb+ Roach 2lb+ skimmer
Bream and other silvers



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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.



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JIM'S JOURNEY.

*SI FISHES - AS I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE
OT FISH THIS MONTH, JIM*

Never Give Up

This is a tale of three day sessions and three words of wisdom. Never give up. Fishing, like life, is unpredictable. You can plan everything, but surprises always find their way in. These three sessions at my new club water threw me on an emotional rollercoaster disappointment, determination, and finally, elation.

Day 1 – First Casts

Having just joined Tonbridge District Angling and Preservation Society, I was eager to see what the waters had to offer. I started on New Lagoon, a float-only lake with carp to 15lb. Fishing prawns, I caught roach, skimmers, tench, and even a stunning little mirror. It reminded me how much fun float fishing smaller species could be. But with two hours left, I couldn't resist trying for a bigger carp next door at the Ballast Pit, a lily-covered lake with a decent stock of fish. I set up in a random swim, casting a simple slip-d rig with a Scopex Squid wafter and a PVA bag into a gap in the pads. I wasn't expecting much—it was my first visit and I'd done no research. The rods were silent all day, and as I was filming my outro, the buzzer suddenly screamed. Fish on! It tore through the pads, unstoppable. My heart raced—this could be my first Ballast Pit carp. Then... ping. The hook pulled. Gutted, I packed up. But the fire was lit. I had to come back.



Day 2 – Blankety Blank

A week later I returned, same swim, same setup. Surely this time. But the place felt dead—no signs, no movement, no confidence. Any carp angler knows that gut feeling when you're in the wrong spot. With two hours left, I moved to the centre of the lake where I'd seen some bubbles. Again, nothing. I started filming my outro, convinced it was another blank, when—unbelievably—the buzzer screamed just like last week. I struck into a powerful fish, it charged through the pads, and I played it carefully... until, yet again, the hook pulled at the net. Two trips, two lost fish. Packing up was tough, but my determination grew stronger. I promised myself: I will land a Ballast Pit carp.

Day 3 – Third Time Lucky

The following week I was back, this time on a wooden jetty opposite the swim where I'd lost my second fish. Once again, two slip-d rigs with Scopex Squid wafters went onto clear spots among the pads. Carp cruised the surface in the warm September sun, but I hoped they'd feed later.

By early afternoon I'd had two nuisance bream, which didn't help the nerves. Please let this not be another wasted day. But at 4pm, during that magic "witching hour," my left rod screamed off. Fish on!

This time I was determined. Every lunge into the pads was met with patience and care. Eventually, a stunning 19lb fully scaled mirror slipped into the net. Relief, joy, and adrenaline surged through me. Finally, I'd done it. I could have packed up then, satisfied. But fishing had more in store.

Colossus

At 6pm, just as I was thinking about leaving, my left rod slowly ticked off again. I lifted in and instantly knew—this was no ordinary fish. Heavy, powerful, unstoppable at times. As I focused, disaster struck: my other rod tore off in

a screaming run!

Chaos. Two fish on at once. I had to ignore the second rod and concentrate on the beast I was playing. After a tense battle, I finally guided a huge mirror into the net. My other rod, thankfully, dropped the fish, leaving me with just one—but what a one.

Another angler came over, grinning. "That's



Colossus, the big one!" I had no idea this lake had named fish, let alone one called Colossus. And here it was, lying in my net. The scales confirmed it: 32lb 5oz. The lake's biggest resident. I was speechless. After two

heartbreaking losses, I'd gone from despair to landing the king of the Ballast Pit. My rod pod had collapsed in the madness, a leg disappearing into the water, but I didn't care. I'd just had the session of a lifetime.

The Lesson

As I slipped Colossus back, I thought about those three weeks. From losing fish at the last second to catching the lake's biggest carp—it summed up perfectly why we say: never give up. That motto applies far beyond fishing. Set goals, keep working, accept setbacks, and stay determined. Things may take longer than you hoped, but persistence pays. That evening, soaked and stinking of fish, I headed off for a celebratory Chinese with my mates, already planning our next adventure—"The Battle of the Rods 2025" at Elphicks.

Final Thoughts

Those three sessions are all on my YouTube channel Si Fishes. The third video, where I land Colossus, will always be a personal favourite. So, whether on the bank or in life, remember: Never give up.

Tight Lines and Wet Nets,

Si Fishes



A SUMMER OF SPECIMENS



Here at Wylands Farm we cater for anglers of all abilities, and we have something for everyone, that being said more than ever this summer our specimen lake has proven to be the most popular lake by far.

Over the summer our specimen lake has been fished hard and received a lot of angling pressure, whilst it has been hard at times it has for the most part consistently produced some fantastic fish, this includes 5 confirmed 30s and another 5-7 fish that we expect to all breach that 30lb bracket by this time next year.

A huge congratulations to all the anglers that managed to achieve a new PB and a massive well done to everyone that managed to put one of the elusive 30lbbers on the bank. As we head into autumn and then into winter the fishing will undoubtedly become more difficult, but we wouldn't be anglers if we didn't like a challenge! We are all excited to see what the winter season is going to produce and we're even more excited at the potential for New Speci to be host to a whole new batch of 30lb fish next year.

If you want the chance for a day ticket 30lber then get yourselves on Swimbookeer and book a spot on our specimen lake. Thank you everyone for your support and custom over the summer season we hope you all had a fantastic experience with us here at Wylands Farm. Tight lines from the whole fishery team!!

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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!

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Lakedown Trout Fishery & Taproom - Check Facebook for June Events

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Lakedown Tap Room is situated on our family farm and trout fishery; Lakedown Trout Fishery, Swife Lane, Burwash, TN21 8UX.

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Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman

Hartley Lands - Finches

This small lake sits alongside the reservoir; what makes Finches different from the others at Hartley Lands is its stock of different species. Bream, crucian carp, perch, roach, rudd, tench, orfe, koi and a few small carp, which make it ideal for float and pole fishing.

On my first session, I was surprised at how busy the lake was. Obviously I wasn't the only one seeking shade from the red-hot sun. Much of the water is covered by an umbrella of overhanging trees. I picked a swim near the car park, as most of the more intimate swims further up in the narrows were already occupied.

The narrows offer a lot of shade and lots of cover for the fish. Lily pads, overhanging branches, rushes and sections of bushes line the bank; these make a natural barrier between swims, giving you the impression you're alone.

I tackled up the waggler on my Drennan Acoloyte match rod. After plumbing up, I found the marginal shelf was very narrow before it dropped sharply into deep water. I set the float at "dead depth" so the hook bait would be a fraction off the bottom. My intended species, crucian carp are notoriously finicky feeders, their bites can be very difficult to detect, so fishing overdepth wasn't an option.

I soaked some sliced bread in water and smashed it up. This I used as groundbait, knowing it would sink slowly. If the fish wanted to feed off the bottom, they would have plenty of time to intercept some flakes as they sank. I fed at less than a rod length from the bank, ideal for a short pole or whip I imagine? My starting gambit was to fish a loaded crystal waggler with a string of number 8 stotz below. The idea was to have a slow sinking bait, allowing the fish to decide how they wanted it. Hookbait was dead maggots on a size 14 to get a quick bite. So it was no surprise that I caught several small silvers. I quickly switched to

punched bread to mimic my groundbait. First cast after this produced a chunky roach of 12ozs. Next cast produced a positive bite, followed by a fast agitated fight typical of crucian carp. This species has become rather scarce in recent years and was the main reason I chose to fish Finches. I caught a few more crucians, none over 8ozs, but I was pleased to acquaint myself with these feisty characters.

As the sun beat down, the action slowed; it was hot, I was hot, so I moved swims. My new swim offered more shade, similar depths, with the added attraction of a small patch of lilies.

While feeding sloppy bread I'd experienced a lot of unhookable bites, so I switched to loose feeding 6mm pellets, a few at a time on every cast. Feeding pellets produced more positive bites from crucians, small tench and skimmers. It wasn't long before the lilies started to tremble, indicating the arrival of some bigger fish. The float dipped and held just under the surface. My strike met something solid, the water erupted as a small carp bolted for cover. Applying heavy side strain prevented it from reaching the pads. Fortunately I managed to extract this mini missile from its intended hiding place, what a scrap!

By late afternoon, I'd caught several more small tench and skimmers and began to see more carp. They hugged the high bank, working their way towards me. I pinged a few floaters in their direction and watched for a reaction. Instantly, one shot forward and engulfed the bait! A quick change of floats saw the loaded waggler replaced by a pellet waggler. I removed all the shot from the line to stop my floating bait from sinking. Two "cricket bat" commons were the result of this change in tactics, a bonus to end my day on a high note.

Return to Finches

As the heatwave continued, I decided on another visit to this charming water. I chose swim #1 for its shade and lilies. I tackled up a match rod with a loaded crystal waggler, then lightly scattered 6mm pellets and sweetcorn. I'd also brought along my favourite 'Darent Valley' 11ft Avon, this was to fish the pellet waggler if I saw an opportunity for some surface sport.

The action was slow but steady, with a few small crucians and tench gracing my net. As bites tailed off, I changed baits to punched bread, which saw me catch a couple of nice bream of 2-3lb. Then as the sun burnt off the remaining clouds, all went quiet. I was kept amused watching the antics of some ducks. They were actually eating blackberries from some overhanging brambles! In all my years fishing, I've



never seen this before.

I took a long lunch break resting my swim. When I resumed fishing, I immediately saw carp on the surface. I fed a few floaters before casting in their direction. I tried floating pellets at first but they showed no interest. Next I tried bread flake; it's a good surface bait which then morphs into a slow-sinking bait. To my surprise, this worked but not for carp! Cast after cast produced 3lb bream, just inches below the surface! James Gardner had told me bream can be difficult to keep pinned to the bottom in hot, calm weather. He's often seen them basking near the surface in these conditions and this was obviously one of those days.

Elphicks - Sandwich Lake & Tunbridge Wells Fly Fishing Society

A few years ago I was talking to Peter Thomason in my tackle shop 'The Friendly Fisherman' about fly fishing for carp. Peter was a regular fly fishing customer, and committee member of the Tunbridge Wells Fly Fishing Society.

The discussion went something like this: Peter, why not try fly fishing for carp when the trout fishing's impossible in the summer? Instead of stopping fishing altogether, you could keep your hand in and experience some super surface action. You don't need to travel too far to enjoy this; there are plenty of day ticket waters locally. Your trout gear will be okay, but you'll need to get an unhooking mat, a large landing net, oh and some imitation dog biscuit flies. Be warned though, carp pull really hard. On the plus side, unlike trout you have to put carp back, so no more unwanted fish to take home!

A few years later Covid struck and we were in lockdown. This gave us time to reflect, sort through our sheds, and the mountains of unused tackle! It was around this time that Peter contacted me. Could he book a day's carp fly fishing tuition, and could Keith Nicholson and Micky Heasman join him? I knew they were all very experienced fly fishermen. So all they needed from me was some guidance on methods and tactics.

It was a pleasure seeing their progress during the day. At first they struggled with feeding tactics. At first they fed too much, which saw the carp following the freebies downwind, out of their swims. Gradually they got the balance right and the carp stayed within casting range. It wasn't long before they all caught their first carp. To cut a long story short, it was a very productive and enjoyable day!

Fast forward five years. The TWFFS now hosts three carp fly fishing events a year! What started as a stopgap has become a hugely anticipated season!

Sandwich Lake - TWFFS carp event.

Micky Heasman had arranged this social event. We were to meet at the on-site 'Carpers Cafe' for breakfast and coffee before starting fishing!

However, before the cafe had opened several eager members had already picked their swims and were



Buster Heasman enjoying fly fishing for carp

fishing, disgusting behaviour! Lol. The excitement was palpable and the banter rife. Gary Collins, who tells me he's now an athlete, was battling his second carp of the morning, while the rest of us looked on and jeered!

After the official start we made our way back to our swims. Shortly after this the water was bombarded with floating pellets and dog biscuits! It was a fun day, where we shared advice, jokes, flies, took trophy shots and enjoyed each other's successes.

These carp days have become very popular, in fact they're the best attended events in the club's calendar. I'm sure the fine weather has a lot to do with it. However, I believe it's the camaraderie and the sharing of information is what makes these such



Keith Nicholson with yet another fly caught twenty

enjoyable days.

What's interesting is how some of the more imaginative anglers have invented new flies to deceive the carp. Some have even devised sight indicators to help spot takes at distance or in poor light. With carp being a new species to target, it has given us the freedom to improvise in an effort to outwitt the fish, and outfish our mates.

Til' next month, tight lines.

Andy Lush

Junior Competition Winners



Kindly sponsored by MFC Outdoor Store
& Fish With Carl



See Page 9 for
more details for
MFC



Fish With Carl

MFC Store Prize Winner – George Eldred

A big well done to George over the summer holidays!

George only joined his local club (Tonbridge) a few weeks ago, but he's already been getting stuck into some brilliant fishing.

First capture: 19lb 6oz Second capture: 16lb 12oz Third capture: 17lb (with some cracking scale patterns!) Fantastic work, George – keep it up, and we look forward to sharing more of your catches soon!



Fish With Carl Winner: Archie Collado

Archie, at just 5 years old, has completed his longest fishing session yet
a 36-hour trip to Combewood Fishery.

He set himself three goals for the adventure:

- Catch a grass carp ✓
- Land a 20lb+ fish ✓ (he did this three times, with the biggest going 24lb!)
- Catch a catfish ✗



The first two were achieved brilliantly, but despite his best efforts, the catfish didn't show this time.

When asked if he was disappointed about missing out on the catfish, I expected a downbeat answer. Instead, Archie's response was: "No – it just means we get to come back! Dad, when can we go again?"

A brilliant attitude from such a young angler, and what a session to remember! 🎉👏





Freddie Grindley - The Lakes at Beachborough - 22lbs 5oz



Charlie's New PB 20lb - Knightingales



Harley Williams - Mirror Carp - Brooklands



George Jennett - 19lb 14oz Common Carp



Alfie Gray 14yrs - Orchards village Essex.



Callum Easton - Bluewater Lakes France - 34lb PB



Alfie - Longshaw fishery in Hernebay



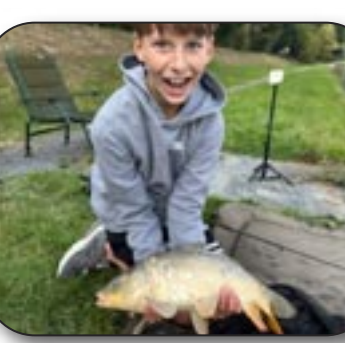
Amelia - Longshaw fishery in Hernebay



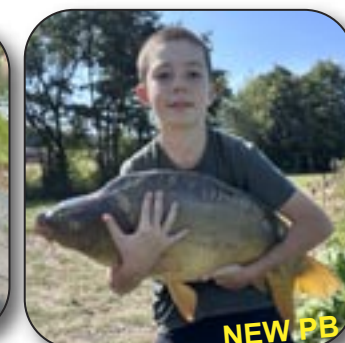
Zac Brown 12yrs - 13lb 1oz Cat Fish



Elsie Woodger - Carp 10lb - Pitlands Fishery



Elliott Evans - Mirror Carp (est 9lb) Hawkhurst Fish Farm



Charlie Beard - 21.10lb. Mirror - Tricklebrook



Charlie Brown - 24lb - Hartlylands (Nicks Lake)



Joseph Morton -(7) A Bream and Muddy Hands



Jamie Thomas - 54lb Wels Catfish Darenth Fishing Complex



Tricklebrook Fishery - Mirror Carp



Dexter Steyn (9Yrs) Spain River Ebro Miravet 20lb Common



Bailey Hardiman-Hills - Normanhurst lake - 16lb



Joseph Morton -(7) has landed his first Tench



Oscar Sen Reeves - Wylands Middle Lake - 25lb Common

Fishing Tale Films

Autumn – Is the best time of the season

by Russ Evans

This year is flying by and by the time this article goes to print then autumn has well and truly arrived which is good to me as my season kicks off in earnest. There are downsides of course like trees depositing all their leaves into your swim halfway through a session making it impossible to see a float or sink your line plus the fish feeding habits start to change as they acclimatise to the dropping water conditions. But when branches are empty and the fish have settled to cooler water temperatures then for me fishing in the autumnal months is a very rewarding time to be sitting by a riverbank or lake. The summer cap or bucket hat is replaced by the beanie and a hot flask is a must for the ruckbag to keep the chills at bay. I always dedicate a few sessions of autumn to roach fishing and recently fished a new venue for me called Frog Island at Tillingbourne Farm which also offers Trout fishing check out their excellent website www.tillingbournefarm.com the tree lined lake is small and shallow but offers excellent mixed species fishing with some quality roach fishing to be had. My first visit to Frog Island was early September, the day after a heavy downpour and the cold rain had clearly had some impact as it took over the hour before I had an indication on my semi loaded drake waggler, I had an unmissable bite but I missed it with both maggots gone. I was not too disappointed at missing the bite in fact I was happy that I had some action and that was followed quickly with two bites that led to my first captures of the morning. Two nice hand sized plump roach which were showed off in front of the Go Pros as I was filming an episode for my YouTube channel which is now available to watch.



The weather started to change

As the morning progressed and I was busy setting up camera angle shots to compliment the film I was making I could not help but notice that the weather was starting to change. First thing when I arrived it was overcast and calm and my yellow tipped float was clear to see but the Sun had decided to poke it head out every now and then behind the clouds and when it did the float tip was impossible to see so a change to red made a big difference as I had to concentrate for long periods at the float as the bites were very finicky and deliberate. A few more roach came my way until I bumped a nice fish which I suspect was a good roach and it all went quiet again. The last thing I wanted to do was bump a good fish when they were in a very finicky mood and I went another hour before a small perch took my hookbait and that was followed by a quick succession of more small perch all roughly the same size. At one point I thought it must be the same perch having a game with me as they were virtually the same fish, brilliant and shiny in all of it's colours. I introduced a few small nuggets of Gros Gardons groundbait to try and kick start the swim again and some twenty minutes later the roach had returned, it had worked. It was inevitable at some point that I was going to hook a carp as they had been crashing out of the water during my session and my float slid away, roach like, before a bend in the rod saw my clutch going and my float moving away from me at a fast rate of knots. It was not a massive carp probably 3-4lbs but it was welcome and tested my light float tackle and by now I had scaled down to a size 16s hook from a 14. By now I had my umbrella up as it had been spitting of rain on and off and leaves were starting to fall from the wind affected trees, it felt like autumn had arrived and was greeting me. The light winds had turned to gusts and in the distance tall trees were starting to get knocked about by heavy bursts of wind and the light fluffy white clouds had turned to a solid dark menacing look about them. Rumbles of



thunder could be heard in the distance and the sounds of anger were getting nearer, it was going to pour down and it did.

Where is my float

During this time of dark clouds, gusty winds and noises of thunder, my swim had been overtaken with leaves to the point that I was struggling to see my float and sink the line as it was getting caught up in autumns debris. A long angry rumble of thunder signalled a heavy downpour and it

was like I was caught up in a mini storm as I had to hang onto my umbrella in fear of it getting blown away.

The weather had changed so quickly and again I could not see my float as it was raining so so hard the rain was causing the lake to take on this white water look. I sat there under the umbrella for a good hour or so not being able to fish whilst making sure that my camera gear was dry. I filmed the heavy downpour from under my brolly so I could add it to the film footage, it proves us anglers are a mad breed at times. By the time this goes to print and copies of the FWI arrives at your tackle shop and fisheries I would have returned to Frog Island again and meet up with Andy Cowdery of Black Bottom Floats, check out his YouTube channel.

I have to say I really enjoyed fishing Frog Island, it is a beautiful and peaceful fishery and well maintained by owner Jerry and his staff. I shall be a regular for sure over the coming cold winter months.

The rain has arrived for our rivers

After a few tough trips to fish my local rivers in very low water conditions the good news is that we, in the South East, are starting to get some much needed rainfall and that can only be good news as the rivers will start to flow again and favourite methods like stick float fishing can resume again in nice currents. I think it is fair to say that in our river systems the roach do like a moving bait and if you can locate a shoal then some amazing bags of roach fishing can be had plus chub of course. I have some trips

planned in the month of October which I hope to report on in my next column as I am off on a trip to fish the River Blackwater in Hampshire at Whinwhistle Fishery was also has four lakes to fish as well. I fished Whinwhistle last November with my son in law Andy for some Perch but we got unlucky as our visit coincided with the first heavy frosts and some light snow which made it very hard going but our trip gave me the chance to suss out the place and take a look at the river Blackwater which runs through the fishery, it looked stunning and I have been

itching to get back there and fish it. I am there for two nights and three days so will mix up my trip fishing the river and lakes, fingers crossed the weather will be kind for my visit.

I have also been communicating with a couple of fisheries that advertise in the FWI about some perch fishing so plans are in

the pipeline for a fish filming visit and I can't wait as I do love my perch fishing trips as some of you know. So this side of Christmas, yes it will soon come round, I have some great trips lined up and booked in including a 48 hour carp session which will be a rare treat for me. I do like the camping side of fishing whether it be for carp, tench and bream for the short or long overnight stays. It can be hard work but I do love the peace and tranquillity of spending quality time by the lakeside in the hope of a big fish or two.

Until we meet again, take care.

Russ Evans



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Ross Sadd - Fantastic Summers Fishing

Since appearing on the front cover with that massive Tench from a southern water, Ross Sadd has been hard at it alongside his dad, and between them they've had a summer to remember.

The photos have been coming in thick and fast, so much so that this month Ross has earned his very own space to showcase his captures. It just goes to show what can be achieved when you

put the hours in and give the water as much time and effort as you can spare. Oh, to be young again!

Wherever Ross casts a line – whether he's targeting Tench, Carp, or Catfish – he always seems to find himself amongst the bigger residents. One thing is for sure: this is only the start of Ross's angling journey, and with such determination and results already, the future is looking very bright indeed.





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MADE IN BRITAIN

I am Dean Ashby aka The local carping legend.

The Local Carping Legend Strikes Again!

Patience, persistence, and preparation — when all three line up, magic happens on the bank. On a recent 24-hour session at Gabriels Fishery in Edenbridge, I was rewarded with a stunning 21lb Mirror Carp, a capture that made every ounce of effort worthwhile.

The session wasn't easy. Conditions were tricky and bites weren't exactly flying in, but that only heightened the satisfaction when everything came good. I'd primed a few small spots with pellet before settling in, confident that a well-placed trap which I deployed 1/2 a wrap out might do the trick. My chosen rig was simple but effective: a Mainline Iso Fish boilie topped with a bright pink squid pop-up.

The take itself was subtle — no screaming run or rattling alarms, just two gentle bleeps before the rod tip tightened toward the margin. That was the cue. The fish powered straight for the rushes, and the fight was on. With steady pressure and careful guiding, I turned it away from danger and, after a spirited tussle, the carp rolled over the cord. Glen was there with the net, smiling as wide as I was as the Mirror went in.

For him, it was a special moment too — the first carp he'd seen banked in some time. With a grin, he joked that carp were beginning to feel as rare as dinosaurs. Watching the Iso Fish and pink squid combo deliver, he hinted that it might just find its way into his own bait box next time out.

With the fish photographed, admired, and safely returned, it was soon time to face the dreaded pack-down. But we left Gabriels buzzing — another chapter written in my angling journey. For me, this session was a reminder of why I keep coming back: the unknown, the challenge, and the reward when it all comes together.

The local carping legend lives on.



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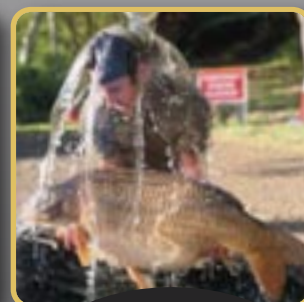


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Selection Of Mixed Fish From our Facebook followers

I recently asked our followers to send in photos of other species they've caught and you didn't disappoint!

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The Medway Man

At last, some rain has arrived!!

This has been long awaited, although at this point many areas are still needing a lot more of it to return to a more normal situation. Recent figures have confirmed that this has been a record year for average temperatures and

certainly one of the driest for a while. As previously mentioned, I had been waiting for this rainy spell and had decided to resist fishing the rivers until these more favourable conditions arrived. I would now have liked to be able to tell you some stories of my successful river exploits. Unfortunately, I can't!!

My piscatorial activities have been severely curtailed by two recent events. Firstly, a nasty gastric bug had me housebound for five days, which was extremely unpleasant and frustrating at the same time. Having just recovered from this I woke up one morning with a pain in my right ankle which quickly worsened and developed into a swollen, and painfully debilitating spell of gout.

This was despite me taking the required daily pills that are meant to prevent it occurring. I ended up totally grounded for a couple of weeks. No walking, no driving, no fishing!! Yes, I know Ex-

cuses etc, but I have to say that having been afflicted with various illnesses/conditions and broken bones throughout my life, on the scale of pain Gout is very near to the top. I have now almost recovered and have been discussing how to avoid this happening again with my doctor (or medical team member) whenever I am able to get an appointment.

I have managed two short evening sessions this last week which produced a couple of tench, but I think that I have probably written enough about my tench quest this year and I have not been out on the river as yet. I am now looking forward to getting a few sessions in with the first evening being later this week.



Because of the dodgy nature of the banks on the stretch that I want to fish, I waited a bit to make sure that there is no chance that the ankle is going to let me down.

When fishing steep or awkward swims particularly after dark I always use a rope and peg to assist me in getting back up the bank during slippery conditions, as I have had trouble with this in the past – even ending up in the river a couple of times. Even swims that are easy to fish and relatively

safe can become extremely dangerous in wet/muddy conditions during winter months and the rope can be a real lifesaver.

Regarding ropes however, I have found that they can soak up water and become heavy and dirty which makes carrying them around a bit of a pain. I seem to have got around this issue by switching to the thinner nylon versions or more

recently the plastic-coated cloths line types which are much more manageable. It is true that they are more slippery and harder to grip but I am finding that tying a knot every couple of feet sorts this problem out and so far, this experiment has proved a success.

A final point, you might say about peg and rope systems is that sometimes the dog retaining corkscrew type of anchor is hard to get into the ground for various reasons. I now carry a lightweight ally bank stick with a screw bottom, and I find that this is often easier to get into the ground. It is true that it is easy to pull it over from the top of the stick but if you make sure that the rope attachment is connected at ground level it appears to be very



secure and has yet to let me down.

Although I am far more careful about my choice of swims these days, having had a few disasters over the years, I know that sometimes inaccessible swims, that are seldom fished, often provide the chance of presenting a bait to fish that are not so wary and frequently when fishing these spots takes will come quickly. I normally only use one rod when investigating these difficult areas and prefer to hold the rod and feel for bites – particularly when targeting the chub. Having said all of this I have to admit that I don't do as much of this type of fishing these days and usually when I do it is because the safer, more popular spots are not producing any action.

I have even considered wearing a self-inflating life jacket to enable me to get at some dodgy spots but overall, I think that this might be going a bit far and do I want to be floating down the river after dark??? Answer is NO.

I am busting to get out on flowing water again and I am sure that I will be able to report on my initial efforts next time. Also, I am checking my pike fishing equipment and will soon be getting enrolled in the 'University of Essox' for another term.

Best Fishes & Safety

Bob Morris



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