

FRESHWATER INFORMER

Issue 339 - November 2025

**Free
Magazine**



**George Bartholomew
PB 211lb Cat Fish
Cackle Hill Fishery**

Catch Up With:

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

.. **URBAN**



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(additional charge
for 3rd rod)

FULLY FUNCTIONING LAKE 13 - CARP & CATFISH WATER

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

MATCH/ PLEASURE LAKES

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CONCESSIONS
1 ROD - £8

FOOD IS AVAILABLE ON SITE FROM MID-MARCH TO OCTOBER

www.orchardplacefarmfishing.co.uk

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



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Two beautiful lakes set in mature, peaceful Kent countryside in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Carp
to 38lbs

Top Lake
Catfish to 85lbs

Bottom Lake
Catfish to 75lbs

Top Lake has five swims, Bottom Lake has six and both can be fished on a day ticket or lake exclusive booking

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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 November edition of The Freshwater Informer

With the clocks going back at the end of the month, I've finally caught up with all the photos that have been sent in. Please keep them coming! Inevitably, the banks get quieter this time of year, but there are still some good fish to target—it might just be a little trickier, with smaller fish and fewer baits possibly being the key.

This month, we welcome Jim and Freddy back. Both have been busy with work, college, and enjoying life to the fullest—something I personally love to see.

Alex has kicked off his first perch session of the year with some fantastic results on the local club waters.

Meanwhile, Andy Lush paid a visit to Elphick's to further his angling knowledge, experimenting with different float methods and the floating feeder, finding success as usual.

Russ has been targeting roach and perch, and you can also check out his YouTube channel for inspiration and tips from his sessions.

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 December 2025 Magazine
Wednesday 19th November 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.

Tricklebrook Fishery



Charlie young had 9x carp in a 36 hour session with the biggest coming in at 33lb



Dan Hesmer - Tricklebrook -
New Lake - 25lb 2oz PB



Lee landed his new PB at 31.4lb
on New lake - Tricklebrook



Alfie Keetch - Tricklebrook - 32lb
common



27lb 12oz Common -
Specimen Lake -
Oscar Green



27lb Catfish - Rob Ledsham
- Quarry Lake



26lb 11oz Mirror - Specimen
Lake - Lee Marston



John Archenoul - Quarry
Lake



Matt Ilott - Quarry Lake



Ron Daivs - Quarry Lake

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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 24 HOUR TICKET X3 RODS - £35
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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



In The Edge With Alex

"The rising sun clawed its way above the treeline. Another dawn, another day."

But not just any day, this was a day of firsts. My first Perch trip of the year. A new season, a new water, a new challenge, a new adventure full of anticipation and expectation. I had visited the lake earlier in the year, fishing for some of the other species that reside in its depths. Conversations with other anglers had revealed the presence of perch, and good ones at that.

I try hard not to have a favourite species, preferring instead to fish with the seasons, but I do find myself wishing away the dog days of summer so that I may turn my attention to these bold, enigmatic predators. Punks of the subsurface world, spiked dorsals in place of mohawks.

As is often case when I start a new campaign, I arrived at the lake with an armful of tackle, a head full of ideas, and very little concept of how to connect the two.

The first challenge was the depth. A great deal of my perch fishing is carried out at fairly shallow commercial fisheries where the margins are typically under 3ft deep. This pool, and a couple of others that I intend to fish over the coming months, differs in that it is over 4ft deep at the rod tip, dropping away to a maximum depth of almost 20ft in its centre. Presentation wise, a light leger, or feeder rig, might be the better option but for various reasons I prefer to float fish when I can. To that end, I had picked up a couple of in-line bobber floats from Fish-On in Paddock Wood. Arguably more suited to rivers, I felt that they might give me an edge on deeper stillwaters. The next thing to address was loose feed. Many far better perch anglers than myself bait with a mix of maggots and chopped worm to attract the perch. I prefer to bait for silver fish, my rational being that their activity attracts the perch, which in turn scatters the bait fish, leaving my hookbait as the only meaningful piece of food. Ordinarily this would take the form of a cloud mix, or over wetted groundbait. Ideal for shallower waters, but maybe less ideal for the depths in front of me. With the added bonus of the lake not containing carp, the scourge of many a perch trip, I opted

for micro pellet in the hope that a reasonable amount would make it to the bottom. Hookbaits were less confusing, raw king prawns. A bait that has proved very successful for me, especially where gudgeon, a favourite food of perch, are present.

Location wasn't an issue. Perch love cover and with almost every swim fringed by lillies it was simply a case of setting up in a fairly central position. In between tackling up my rods I fed a steady stream of pellets either side of the pads nearest to me. The idea behind using two rods was that it would allow me to explore the different depths and double my chances. The reality is that any more than one rod spreads what limited ability I do have too thinly, and at best, makes me half as good. A point that was reinforced when I was too busy focusing on the left hand float as the right hand one sailed off under the lillies.

Bite missed, lesson learned, I rearranged things so that my floats were inline with each other. Even though they were only a short way apart, either side of a couple of pads, there was a difference of nearly 2ft in depth, such was the steepness of the drop-off.

Senses heightened, attention focused, I was better prepared the next time a float dipped. It was the deeper water rod that moved first. A firm bite met with an equally firm strike, paired with a rush of adrenaline as the familiar head shakes of a big perch sent pulses up the line. I quickly bundled it into the landing net and pulled back the mesh to reveal my bristling prize. And what a prize it was. Large mouthed,



stepped shoulders, sail like spiked dorsal with bold black stripes giving way to a white underbelly, all framed with fiery orange fins. I'll often weigh the first few fish from a new water



to help get my eye in, and in this case I was glad that I did. 2lb 4oz of perfect predator. A great start, and I hoped, a positive sign of things to come.

No sooner had I returned the first, than the second float was away. An almost

mirror image of the first fish, just two ounces lighter.

This set the tone for the day. Brief periods of intense action with lulls of up to a couple of hours in-between. I got the impression that the two early captures were 'residents' of that particular set of lillies, whilst subsequent captures were probably patrolling swaggers attracted by the silver fish activity. Perch tend to shoal by year class, and this was borne out by my captures. Starting with a brace of twos, the next action came from some fish in the 1lb 4oz - 1lb 12oz class, before another two pounder graced my net. All the while I was keeping up a steady stream of micro pellets going into the swim.

Interestingly, the majority of the bites were coming from the shallower side of the pads. It wasn't all plain sailing. I was missing far more bites than I was

happy with. Partly down to trying to juggle two rods, partly down to the depth, and partly down to the fact that perch are seemingly able to give unmissable bites that are infinitely missable. Numerous times the float was dragged under with purpose, only for me to strike into thin air. Very frustrating! My great start was in danger of becoming a mediocre finish, and when a single solitary magpie swooping across the lake coincided with me missing yet another bite, I was very close to calling it a day. Thankfully, as I stood and pondered my next move, a second flapped by. One for sorrow, two for joy. I quickly saluted, turning my attention back to the water just in time to see the remaining float sink from view. With fate on my side, I had little to fear, and even though the fish made the sanctuary of the pads, my confidence in landing it, stood undiminished. As it came free I could see it was another good fish, in fact probably the best of the day. This was confirmed when it pulled the needle around to 2lb 8oz. A lovely long fish that is sure to be pushing the 3lb mark as the winter progresses. I could have stopped there, but with only a couple of hookbaits left, I decided on one last cast. This time the bite was barely perceptible. A slight shimmy followed by a slow draw to the left. I struck, expecting nothing, but once again the rod hooped over. I could see the flash of a large perch in the evening sun, twisting and turning as it rose to the surface in a flurry of spray. Even bigger than the last. 2lb 12oz of glowering menace, a perfect example. The smallest of bites for the biggest of fish, and a wonderful way to round off my first Perch trip of the year

Alex



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Here at MFC Outdoor Stores we have a huge range of fishing supplies. From Fox and Korda to Drennan and Gardner to Guru and Nytro to Dynamite and Sticky plus many more, including maggots, worms and freezer baits.

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Tel: **01580 212512**

email: info@elphicks-fisheries.co.uk

www.elphicks-fisheries.co.uk

Elphicks Fishery - Kent



Adam Brend 41.8lb Prairie lake



Daniel Hesmer Kettles lake 20.2lb



Matt Robbo 27lb Prairie lake



Paul Kent 42.2lb North Lake



Charlie White Prairie Lake 33lb



James Flashman 26lb Prairie

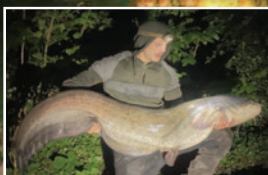
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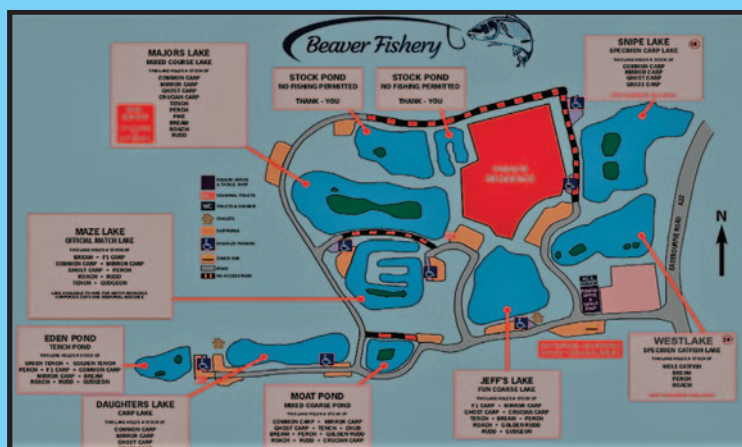
Facebook: beaverfishery



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.

Facilities include:

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- 9 Car Parks including Disabled Friendly Parking
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- Seasonal Snack Bar with Hot and Cold Food
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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)

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Email : greenacresfarmfishery@gmail.com





Jack Hurst - Dartford Lakes
(Main) 8lb 4oz Tench



Mark Day - River Pike - Great
Start to The Pike Season



Steven Beech - Lachett
Lake - 35lb Wels Catfish



Alex Coutts - Penny Bridge
2lb 8oz Perch



Peter Cave - 40lb PB Catfish - Monk Lakes



Michael Ridley - Private river - 2.2lbs Chub



Stuart & Connor Roome - Charlie's lake
Ashford - Left 34lb Right 29lb



Leo Thompsett - River Medway - 12lb Zander

Iden Wood Fishery



Tel/Fax: Andy Ashdown
01797 280180

Mobile:
07906 232225

5 secluded lakes set in 60 acres of
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| Coldharbour Lane | Iden | Rye |
East Sussex | TN31 7UT

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





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,
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Grass Carp to 29lbs 6ozs.

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or

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The Linton Angling Society - Membership Vacancies

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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 is fishing very well even though the water level is low. Plenty of quality Carp being caught. The Pike fishing has also been productive with plenty of fish coming out to low double figures.

Haysden Lake continues to produce good bags of Roach with the odd Bream and Tench included. Some really good quality Roach have been caught on waggler tactics on Barden and the odd big Carp to just over 40lb.

Match weights have been good on the Sportsground section of the river with some terrific bags of Roach and Bream.

The Pike league has been well attended and plenty of smaller fish being recorded.

MATCH RESULT

Tonbridge V Edenbridge Haysden Lake -
19/10/25 26 fished

Edenbridge : Odd peg numbers

Tonbridge : Even peg numbers

Top 3 weights counted from each team.

EDENBRIDGE - 36lb 11oz

Peg 27 - Ian Lindsay 17lb 0oz

Peg 25 - Andy Gouldthorpe 9lb 8oz

Peg 29 - John Hewitt 10lb 3oz

TONBRIDGE - 37lb 12oz

Peg 10 - Mick Smith 14lb 6oz

Peg 6 - Paul Reddy 12lb 12oz

Peg 8 - John Cooper 10lb 6oz





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Fish of the Month Prize Winner



Colin Brown - 32lb Lake Heron - Cottington Lakes



Harley Williams - 35lb PB
Elphicks Fishery



Archie Coombs - Mill lake -
15.2 Mirror Carp



Jack Keutenius - Stour Vallex
- 20lb 14oz - Common Carp



Jack Keutenius - Stour Vallex
Complex - 26lb 6oz - Mirror



Paul Lambert - Syndicate
Water - 32lb 3oz Common



Ian Trim - Monks Lake -
Bridges - 18lb 5oz Ghost



Colin Brown - Lake Winsor
- Cottington Lakes 15lb



Steven Beard - Sandwich
lakes - 26lb 10oz



James Lee - Sandwich
Lakes - 26lb Common

FRESHWATER INFORMER

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

info@freshwaterinformer.com or our Facebook Page,
Winners will receive a:

Freshwater Informer / Urban Baits Session Pack
2kg of Boilies 1kg Stick Mix, 500ml Liquid and Hook Baits
to match in either their **Nutcracker, Red Spicy Fish, Tuna & Garlic, Strawberry or Fully Loaded Range**

🎉 Winner's Spotlight 🎉 A huge congratulations to
Colin Brown on landing a stunning 32lb carp from Lake
Heron, Cottington Lakes — our Urban Bait Prize Winner!

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



Ryan Hemsley - Elphicks
plantation lake -32lb 1 oz



James Lee - Sandwich
Lakes - 26lb 4oz Mirror

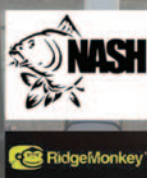


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Between Canterbury & Herne Bay on A291 - just 10 minutes from either!

Email: badders22000@hotmail.com

BAIT AVAILABILITY DEPENDENT ON TIDE AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

HOUSE LAKE MATCH



'Shot down in flames' pretty much sums up my day today, when 13 of us held a knock-up on House Lake at Wylands Farm, near Battle, in readiness for next Sunday's fourth round of the Sussex teams of six league. About the only thing I got right was realising that carp, not silvers, were the fish to target.

Mistake number one was thinking I could get some maggots from the onsite tackle shop. Graham Shinkfield was kind enough to give me some of his.

Mistake number two was thinking I would catch on the method feeder and pole alongside the rushes running up the side of my corner peg. I couldn't. Even as I was pouring my first cup of tea, Wylands team captain and all-round ace Wayne Wilkinson was battling the first of many double-figure carp on the long pole fished into the open water.

Before I knew it, I was 35lb down and Wayne was fetching an extra keepnet. As he netted yet another carp, I went over to see what he was doing. Knowing I was no threat whatsoever, he told me all, so I went back, did as he said and within seconds was wrestling an eight-pounder. While playing it, I thought, 'that elastic looks a bit frayed in the middle,' but didn't bother to change top kits. That was mistake number three, for when I hooked into a mid-double soon after, I overdid the stripping to get the offending bit of elastic safely past my hand, put too much pressure on the fish and lost it at the net. That alone cost me a default section win.

I ended up weighing 38lb something - a mere 98lb behind worthy winner Wayne (pictured). Oh well, there's always next week.

Author - Trevor Hoad



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JIM'S JOURNEY.

A QUICK 24 HOURS ON ROSIE'S LAKE, WYLANDS

Hi all,

I managed to squeeze in a quick 24-hour session on the bank with Katelyn, slotted neatly between college, work shifts, and making the most of the last of the good weather on the motorbike. It's certainly been a busy few months, so it felt great to finally unwind and get the rods back out again! thank you to Si Fishes filling my space whiles I was away

We decided to fish Rosie's Lake at Wylands, and before setting up we made a quick stop at Tesco to grab a few bits for our evening meal. On the menu this time was chilli-spiced pork belly with crushed potatoes finished in butter and garlic, served with Moroccan couscous. We've been experimenting with simple but tasty bankside meals that don't take much effort — and this one definitely hit the spot! Unfortunately, I tucked into it before remembering to take a photo... but trust me, it was absolutely delicious and surprisingly easy to prepare and cook on the bank.

When we arrived at the lake around 2pm, it was overcast and breezy, so we opted for a swim with a bit of shelter while the wind pushed nicely toward the island. With the bivvy set up and everything packed neatly away in case of rain, we turned our attention to the rods. Two were positioned toward the island and one was fished down the margin.



All three rods were set up on my trusty D-rigs, with baits carefully chosen to match the hatch and maximise our chances. On one rod, I used Urban Baits Nutcracker, a firm, nutty-flavoured wafter that's perfect for tricky spots or clear water. Its subtle aroma draws carp in without spooking them, and the firm texture allows it to sit naturally on the rig while still giving the fish a satisfying bite.

The other rod was baited with Parker Baits OG Fish, a classic go-to. Its mix of fishmeal and natural attractors creates a strong scent trail, ideal for tempting wary carp. Fished as a match-the-hatch wafter over crushed and whole boilies, it develops a subtle feeding zone around the hook that proved very productive during the session.

The margin rod saw a bit more experimentation, switching between different baits but always fished over a mix of pellet and crushed boillie. The combination worked well: the Nutcracker targeting cautious, late-feeding fish, while the OG Fish attracted more confident, roaming carp.

It didn't take long for the action to start — within a couple of hours, the Nutcracker rod was away, producing a lovely common carp. It was a rewarding early result and a real confidence booster, as the dreaded blank was quickly off the cards. I'll admit, when fishing with a magazine article in mind, that thought of a blank always plays on my mind — it can definitely change how you fish. But with that first fish safely in the net, the pressure lifted and we could finally relax and enjoy the session.

With fresh confidence, I re-cast the rod clipped perfectly to the mark — and it landed beautifully on the same spot, setting us up nicely for what was shaping up to be a good night ahead.

But, being true to my fishing, the night turned out to be a quiet one. As morning broke, I

managed to hook into another fish — a mirror carp — but unfortunately lost it right at the net. It wasn't a big one, but it would have been a nice addition to the session. That turned out to be the last bit of action for us, but we didn't mind.

We made the most of the calm morning, enjoying a relaxing bankside brunch and a few cups of tea, just soaking in the peace and quiet before packing up. By early afternoon,



everything was tidied away and ready for the lift home. It had been a well-deserved night under the stars — a perfect little reset before college kicked off again on Monday.

For anyone thinking of visiting Wylands Rosie's Lake, it's worth noting they offer pods for hire, which are a great option if you don't fancy bringing your bivvy or it's your first overnight fishing session. These lakeside glamping pods provide direct access to the water and are available for hire at £50 per night. They offer a comfortable alternative to traditional bivvy setups, allowing you to enjoy the fishing experience with added comfort. Staying in a pod at Rosie's Lake not only enhances your fishing experience but also provides the comfort and convenience of modern accommodation amidst the serene countryside.





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Young Guns on the Bank

Young Ollie Hakeman and his mate Nyall Flisher have been putting in the hours over at the Orchards Lake complex, stretching their legs and getting amongst some cracking fish along the way. Great angling from these two lads — ones to watch for the future!



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Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman

Whether to fish, and the weather?

Hardly a month goes by without me describing the weather at the beginning of an article. Despite what we'd like to think, the weather not only affects the fish's behaviour and whether they want to feed or not, it often, more than we'd like to admit, affects our methods and presentation.

When writing articles I think the difficult days make for a more interesting and informative piece. If plan A works, why would you change? However, when plan A, and possibly B don't work, you really get to see, and hopefully understand the process of how to work through the presentation and tactics to solve the problems, and ultimately catch fish!



Pellet wagglers come in a variety of shapes and sizes

Trials and tribulations fishing the pellet waggler.

I arrived at the lake on a humid morning; it was one of those mornings when the surface seemed thick and oily. I headed to an area that would put me downwind when the forecast wind finally arrived.

To start the session, with no wind, I chose a 7g pellet waggler and cast halfway across the finger bay I was fishing. I fed 8mm pellets and immediately saw carp swirling on the surface, so it was no surprise when my float shot under and line fizzed off the reel. First fish in the net, what a way to start a session. I imagined this was going to be the start of a hectic feeding spell, but it was not to be. Although the carp were being drawn to my loose

feed, they were not interested in my hookbait, despite being set within a foot of the surface; I couldn't go any shallower. My hook length was six inches long and my float was six inches long too. My solution was to insert a rolled-up piece of bread flake into the latex hook band. This had the effect of the hookbait settling on the surface for a few moments before slowly sinking. Instantly the surface erupted, a fraction of a second later line was screaming off my reel, result!

Shortly after this the wind arrived, and the fish disappeared. I tried to draw them back, but the gusts of wind made it impossible to keep the loose feed and float together long enough to catch fish. My next option now was to cast across the bay to the far margin. This area is unfishable from that bank which makes it a safe zone for the carp and an area that always holds a few fish. Despite my best efforts, my original 7g float just wasn't heavy enough to beat the wind; I was dropping well short of the far margin. Rummaging through my tackle box, I found a 14g Drennan pellet waggler; I could now reach the far margin if I was brave enough. The next problem was I couldn't catapult the 8mm pellets far enough. So my next move was to feed 11mm pellets; even these were falling short. The solution was to replace my float with a Korum floating feeder, loaded with a sloppy groundbait, which I'd mixed with 50% water and 50% fish oil. This had the immediate effect I'd hoped for, as carp swirled just downwind in the slick. Two or three casts later, I switched back to the waggler; as it landed, it plunged under, "carp on." My plan had worked. However, subsequent casts didn't have the same effect; if I didn't get a bite within a minute, the float was dragged out of the carp's safe zone by the line drag. The window of opportunity was very small.



Korum floating feeders

My next problem was that the sloppy groundbait had pulled loads of roach into the area. They were attacking my 8mm hookbait like piranhas! To discourage them, I upped my bait size to 11mm, something I'd not tried before. Every time the bites slowed, I recast the loaded floating feeder; on reflection, I was using it very much like a miniature spomb; the effect was the same. When the wind eased, as it did occasionally, my float stayed where I intended and a bite resulted in a hooked carp, but as the wind increased my presentation was compromised. My pellet waggler was attached to a 0.21mm fluorocarbon leader of 15ft [4.5m], this was to take the wear and tear of casting and to help sink the reel line. Unfortunately, it wasn't working as well as I'd hoped; my reel line was new and shiny, which meant it didn't want to sink. This caused major problems as the wind was creating a massive bow in the line, totally ruining my effort to fish close to the far bank.

Shortly after midday, the sun finally broke through, and the wind dropped. With the warmth the carp started to show on the surface, in the middle of the bay again, just mooching about. I was having a lunch break when I first noticed them. Returning to my swim, I pinged a few floaters out to see how they'd react, and it was no surprise to see them taking these freebies. That was all the incentive I needed to get my fly rod tackled up. It didn't take long, and by now I had two or three groups of carp visiting my baited swim. I was ready and the carp

were feeding; what could possibly go wrong? The wind now decided to pick up again, and the carp disappeared. I bided my time feeding floaters of different sizes all the time scanning the surface for signs of fish. I stuck with it for the next couple of hours, but with no signs the wind would drop, I reverted to the pellet waggler.

repeated the process of feeding the far bank with my sloppy mix; I even managed, with a lot of practise, to get some 11mm pellets close enough to feel I was in the game. Occasionally a window of opportunity arose, when the wind subsided long enough to make a cast tight into the far margin; this happened just twice, and I was rewarded with an instant take. All I had to do now was boss the fish, playing the carp very hard and winding like a madman to prevent them kiting into my neighbour's swim.

Time was passing quickly; I had to make the most of every opportunity. By working hard at my casting and feeding accuracy, I was rewarded with another couple of fish. I thoroughly enjoyed the day; I've had far more successful days recently, but today I had been challenged by the conditions as much as by the carp.

Til' next month, tight lines

Andy Lush



Success with the floating feeder

Junior Competition Winners



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See Page 9 for
more details for
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Fish With Carl

MFC Store Prize Winner – Harvey Royal



Winner's Spotlight A huge well done to Harrison who had an amazing Sunday morning session! In just a few hours, he managed to land two cracking 3lb ide, and the highlight of the day An unexpected and stunning barbel from his local river. What a beautiful species they are! 🏆
Winner of the MFC Bait Prize for these outstanding captures — well deserved, Harrison!



Fish With Carl Winner: William B

Having only started in the summer holidays and with only 4 sessions under his belt, William has seen increasing catches of roach, bream and carp at different fisheries. Using his Dad's old Normark Quiver tip rod, Daiwa reel and Method Feeder, William landed his biggest PB by far - a beautiful 6lb 8oz Common Carp. A tricky catch, as this wise carp headed straight for the snags. William did very well to play and land this fantastic catch. He's really got the bug now and would go fishing everyday if he could!





Ronnie Keutenius - 1lb
Common Carp - Sam's lake



Bobby Boy - 32lb 4oz - From
a Recent French Trip



Marc - Iden Wood Fishery -
PB Common 8lb



Jasper Breeze - Common
Carp - 11lb 2oz PB



James Ridley - Penny Bridge
6oz Perch



Willows First Carp, New
PB 6lb - Sandwich lakes,



Jack Palin - Hartly Lands
Farm Fishery - 15lbs Mirror



Joey Wilkins - Orchard Place
Farm - 18lb Mirror



Hudson Scott - Geddes Hill -
Perch



Ollie Hakeman (Left) Catfish Orchard Lakes



Joey Wilkins - Orchard Place
Farm - 16lb Mirror



Emily Murphy - Marshside -
Common Carp



Emily Murphy - Marshside -
Mirror carp 7lb ((PB)



Leon Nicholson-Hesmer -
River Wye - Brown Trout



Jim hunt - (7) Monk Lakes -
Carp



Archie Hayned - Thorpe Lea
fishery - 25lb Common



Harvey Royal - Elphics Fly-
fishing For Carp 20lb

Fishing Tale Films

Roach and Perch dominate my start to Autumn

by Russ Evans

Since my last article I have been busy by the water's edge in the pursuit of catching some roach and perch and first up was my first trip to Tricklebrook Fishery (24th September) to fish the small lake for some perch action. I don't normally kick off my perch sessions this early in the season but after last seasons lack of perch fishing for a variety of reasons I was keen to get in early and make up for some lost time. I filmed the session for my YouTube channel 'Perch Fishing at Tricklebrook' and on arrival I was im-

pressed with this lovely looking venue, the small lake was much smaller than I had imagined but it just screamed perch with a little island and many margin features so it is not surprising to hear that stripey's to over 3lbs have been caught from this little gem of a lake. Armed with my Darent Valley 11ft rods and 4000 Stradics I set a Korum 3g blob float on one rod and a lovely hand made Perch bobber by Black Bottom Floats on 6lbs mainline connected to a quick sleeve swivel which in turn was connected to 4.4 supplex fluorocarbon hook link tied to a size 10 barbless all rounder hook by Korum. 90% of my big perch successes have virtually come from fishing

close to the margins or structures, so that it is exactly what I did on this occasion to start of my perch campaign. Armed with prawns and lobworms as my main hook baits, I chopped up my usual worm mush to feed via a pole cupping kit, my worm mush as I like to call it has served me well for many years and adds a nice attractant and scent around my float, it consists of drendas, cocktail prawns, dead and alive red maggots vigorously chopped up and then for some added scent but only if the water is very muddy I then add either, some worm liquid, predator plus or krill juice.



The temperatures had cooled but I knew from old it needed to be much colder to stop the chances of catching everything else that swims and that likes the hook baits I was using, which is every

species. However from the start after some 20 minutes I started to get those perch bite indications followed by a few missed bites which at the time seemed unmissable but all perch anglers know that feeling when small perch are about and when using big baits, the eyes to big for belly syndrome springs to mind. My first three perch all fell off the hook on retrieve but they were small in the 8 ounce bracket, obviously struggling to swallow my big prawn hookbait. But that did not bother me as it was perch in the swim and at the time was all that mattered. I switched both rods to big pieces of lobworms nipping off the end to allow for more scent and that was when I started to connect more with my bites. A few small perch were interrupted by a big skimmer or two, some roach and of course eventually the carp zoomed into my feeding area. The carp tested my perch tackle and to be honest I enjoyed the scrap and getting a nice bend in the rod. The overcast conditions eventually gave way to brighter conditions and the carp became to active so around 1.30pm I cut my enjoyable session short and took a quick look at the specimen lake which again holds big perch of over the 4lbs mark, so I saw enough to know when the temperatures drop even more I will be back to Tricklebrook for many more perch sessions to try and land a 4lber.



A catch up with Black Bottom Floats

Two days after my Tricklebrook fishing debut I was off to Frog Island on the Tillingbourne Farm estate near Abinger Hammer in Surrey to meet up with Andy Cowdery of Black Bottom Floats YouTube channel.



BBF Andy and Russ

Andy has made me some fantastic waggler floats in sarkander materials and especially made me some quality Perch Bobbers of which I have used in some of my videos. So we arranged a meet up for a fish and to chat floats of which can be seen on my channel called 'floats, roach and the unexpected' we had a lovely day catching some nice roach although the real big roach went missing but again we need a few more colder nights to put the small roach and perch off the feed and I am sure over the winter months I will have a couple more visits to find those big stamp roach all of which will be fun trying as it is such a lovely peaceful little very shallow lake to fish. As you will see if you watch the video Andy is very passionate about his float making all of which started due to the times of the Covid breakout as it left him with something to do in lockdown. He developed his float making skills in his shed which he calls the pleasuring shed (I ask him why that name in the video) and just two years ago launched his own YouTube channel showing how he makes his floats. His float making videos are excellent and very therapeutic to watch as he explains the steps he takes to making his own floats and I know his channel has inspired others to have a go at making their own floats. From quills, straight and stepped waggles to bobbers and all sorts I am sure Andy can make you one of your to be future favourite floats. He has his own website www.blackbottomfloats.co.uk with links to his eBay store where he sell his floats. I highly recommend Andy's floats and by the photo of my perch bobbers you can see they are of high quality.

Off to Hampshire

Early October, I was then off to Hampshire for a two night stay in one of Whinwhistle Fisheries Shepherd's Huts where I had stayed before the previous November. Day One was going to be a session on a mile stretch of river that runs through the back of the fishery called the River Blackwater. There was a special swim that I wanted to fish which I spotted on my previous visit so after booking in I headed off to the chosen swim and set up my stick float attack. Like most rivers up and down the country it was running low and with the river being clear I was not sure what to expect but I need not have worried as I was quickly into bites and fish, kicking off with a plump perch on double yellow maggot to a size 16s hook. After the first hour I had caught six different species and I must admit the not knowing what to expect from one bite to the next is one of the main reasons why I love fishing rivers, the unknown is the draw. The river consists of grayling so that was one of my main targets but in going through the seemingly A-Z of fish species there was one species that really surprised me and I caught many of them, they were Giants and gave me the title name of the video I filmed 'the Giants of the Blackwater' I am running out of space to do my visit to Whinwhistle justice so I will leave the rest of the trip for my next column which believe it or not will be the Christmas edition, this year has flown by so quickly. The video of my session of the Blackwater will be out to watch by the time this edition goes to

print so please give it a watch as I am sure you will be amazed by the 'Giants' and other species that I catch.

Also the following day I was on one of their lakes for a Perch fishing session and what a great day that was in ideal overcast and drizzly conditions and once again that video will be out to watch called 'Chasing 4lbs+ Perch at Whinwhistle' the week after the Blackwater video. In

November I will share some photos of that day two session.

In the meantime I shall be out and about with a rare for me, 48 hour carp session which I am looking forward to in November and of course more lake and river perch sessions in the pipeline.

Wishing you all the best on your next outing by the water's edge

Russ Evans



Readers Capture's



Adam Oxley - Wylands
Fishery - New Spec -
32lb3oz



Steve Blondun
River Medway
Barbel 8lb 2oz



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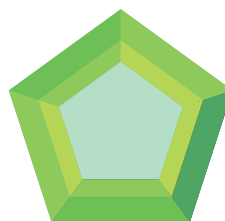
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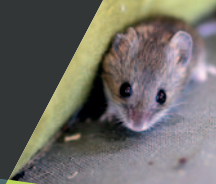
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The Diary of an Match Angler

Chart Hill Fishery

Written By Freddy Joe Beany

You join me at my first match back with Paddock Wood Angling Club after injury. Today's match was hosted at Chart Hill Fishery which is a stunning venue with plenty of fish to be caught. Last year I managed my P.B. match weight of 208lb here at chart so I was looking forward to this one.

When I arrived I got my gear out the car and loaded on to the barrow, went for a quick look at the lake and then had a chat with a few anglers before the draw. 8am arrived and the draw took place, the hand of mystery pulled out peg 7 which was round on the left hand bank. Luckily I had the front of the island to chuck to on the feeder and had plenty of open water to try a few different approaches for example, pellet waggler, fishing shallow ect. After taking a minute to analyse my peg I started to unload the barrow and start getting myself setup for the day ahead.

Rigs

On the rig front I set up, two rigs for fishing on the deck, a paste rig, shallow rig, method feeder and the pellet waggler. The rigs for fishing on the deck were, 0.4g matrix slim float, tied to 0.18 micron mainline with a bulk of no.9's and two no.9 droppers, down to a 0.16 Drennan acolyte fluorocarbon hook length which was 6" with a size 16's LWG.

The second rig was the exact same however the only difference being the shotting pattern as on this rig it was tapered.

Paste rig:

Mainline 0.4g paste float tied to 0.18 micron mainline with a running olivet to prevent tangles, down to a 0.16 Drennan fluorocarbon with a 14's LWG.

Shallow rig: 0.2g matrix dibber tied to 0.18 micron mainline with 3 no.9 stotz, down to 0.16 drennan fluorocarbon with a banded 16's LWG.

What's on the my bait tray?

On the tray I had, mainline match 2mm coarse micro pellets, 4mm/6mm mainline match coarse hard pellets, paste, hemp, Dynamite Swim Stim ground-bait and 4/6mm mainline match expanders.

How the match played out...

I started by feeding 2 medium guru cad pots full of micros on the pole line at 11m to start off. With the pole line fed, I pick up the feeder to start on. I Cast over to the point of the island with micros and a banded 4mm and within 3 minutes it pulled round and I landed a small carp around 1lb ½. Second chuck the tip went round although this time its fell off. Then I had run of around 3 just dropping off however they didn't feel of any size. I sacked the feeder off for a bit and dropped in on the pole instead.

I started on a 4mm expander and it wasn't long before I had a fish on however it was around the same size as the first fish I had on the feeder. Next put in I picked up the paste rig, feeding a few micros, hemp and 4mm before the float just buried straight away with a fish of 2lb. Still not the stamp I was looking for but it's a start. I went in around 6-7 time and had a fish every put in on paste. However like usual someone's switched a switch and fish stopped feeding.

For next 2 hours I was trying different things to try and get a bite, fishing shallow, back on paste, fishing expanders, but luckily I was catching the odd fish on the feeder although not of any size.

I then pushed out 12m feeding micros and fishing 4mm expander over the top and was starting to get a few bites, while I was out there I was pinging over a few 4mm on the 11m line. After half an hour or so things didn't seem right out there so came in, as I started to see a bit of fizzing. I Picked the paste rig up with a very small piece and the floats buried YES!!! I looked at the time and we had around 1h 30mins to go so I really needed to knuckle down and focus. After feeding constantly I really had them going and held them there as it was virtually one a chuck. The stamp got better and the fishing was amazing. I landed a fish 2 minutes before the whistle which was around 5lb, I then quickly raced back out and the float was under straight away, the all out was shouted so I shouted FISH ON!! It was another fish of around 5lb. What a great way to finish the match.

When the scales reach my peg I managed to put **100lb 12oz's** on them which I was more than happy

with for an 1 hour and 30mins worth of fishing , haha! I later found out I'd done enough for second which I was really happy with. I really managed to bag up in that last hour and half and what a way to return.

Now its back to the tackle room to get ready for the match ahead.




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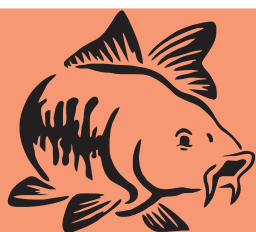


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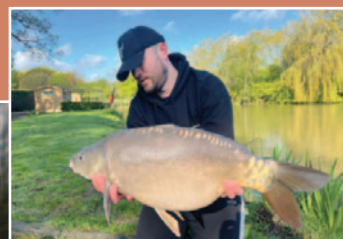
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The Medway Man

Bob Morris

I did get my first pike of the season

Having survived a series of ailments as reported last time, I am now back on track and making a belated start to my Piking for the coming winter season. There are always a few surprises on the fishing front, and a recent short session produced a belting take on a whole sprat that turned out to be a common carp of about twelve pounds!! This followed a previous session where several dropped takes had raised my suspicions that pike were not responsible even though I did get my first pike of the season, a fish of 14lb.



This is not the first time that I have encountered such activity from carp, although it is still rather unusual. Once a bait has been dropped however it is usually impossible to tell what was responsible unless obvious teeth marks are evident. It may be that my current system of fishing small hair rigged dead baits on single hooks will attract more carp interest and this is something that I will now be looking out for as I have often dismissed many twitchy or short pulls as Eel action.

There are several waters that I fish regularly that don't seem to have any Eels and dropped takes and twitches on dead baits are not uncommon. I have often put this down to cautious pike but the lack of teeth marks in the retrieved baits has always been a puzzle, particularly where soft baits such as sprats and sardines are being used. Scattering chopped up pieces of fish around the area may also encourage this opportunist behaviour. Another aspect of this carp question is that using my hair rigged bait tactics tends to rule out an instant strike and this could make it a bit more likely that a carp could sample the bait and drop it quite safely so it's possible that this may have been happening fairly frequently. I will investigate.



I have been continuing my experiments with various types of float tackle for fishing in relatively shallow weedy swims, which I often find myself tackling during the autumn when these areas are often worth exploring. My current method involves a small self cocking/weighted float (in fact a carp controller works well) that is not stopped, but free to run on the line. This allows the line to run freely through it when a take occurs, and this prevents it snagging in the weed and potentially causing the pike to drop the bait. Yes, it is true that the take will not necessarily cause the float to bob down or skate across the surface, but it will show movement when there is a pick-up if the line is kept under tension – particularly if an angle is kept between rod tip float and bait. Having said this, I always fish this system with a drop back indicator and an audible alarm and only use it at relatively close range. It works well and has the advantage of float fishing in these conditions as it keeps the line up off the bottom while cutting down on resistance. So far, the autumn has been very mild and dry, and the water temperatures have only recently dropped to a point where pike fishing is allowed on certain waters. Although there is some controversy over this, I think that there is strong evidence to suggest that pike do not do as well on the recovery front if caught in warm water.

I am convinced that this is the case, and I would suggest that the traditional pike season starting on 1st of October should now be moved forward by one month. Autumn weather seems to be changing due to global warming/climate change etc, and frosts during October are now rare in many areas. With daytime temperatures still reaching low twenties last week it looks like whatever passes for winter these days will be a bit late. It is always difficult to predict water temps but usually by November the water is cold.

What else? Well. A couple of evening tench trips over the last couple of weeks, despite the conditions being far from ideal, in the sense that I would have liked to see much more rain in the southeast area, have produced a few fish and in particular some nice carp and it has been great to see the action continuing into the autumn although with reasonable weather continuing this is not too much of a surprise.

I was going to finish by elaborating on this autumn fishing spell but during the writing of this piece I was interrupted by a phone call informing me of the sad death of Jim Gibbinson, one of the most significant writers/journalists and personalities on the angling scene during my lifetime. Although I would not describe Jim as a close friend, I had a very good relationship with him over the years and always valued his opinions on the various issues, both piscatorial and otherwise that we discussed, usually via regular email's. Humour was never far from the surface during our exchanges, and we shared a certain wicked and possibly rather cynical view on many of the subjects discussed. I also managed a few sessions on the bank with him over the years usually blanking, as I recall. Taking the micky out of each other was acceptable during our relationship which I believe indicates a mutual respect even when disagreeing over something and I will always remember the good times of regular communication with Jim and the frequent banter. Just to give an insight into this, I once concluded a discussion on angling prowess by offering, in print if required, to admit he was better looking than me if he would agree that I was a much better angler - I know that he was tempted

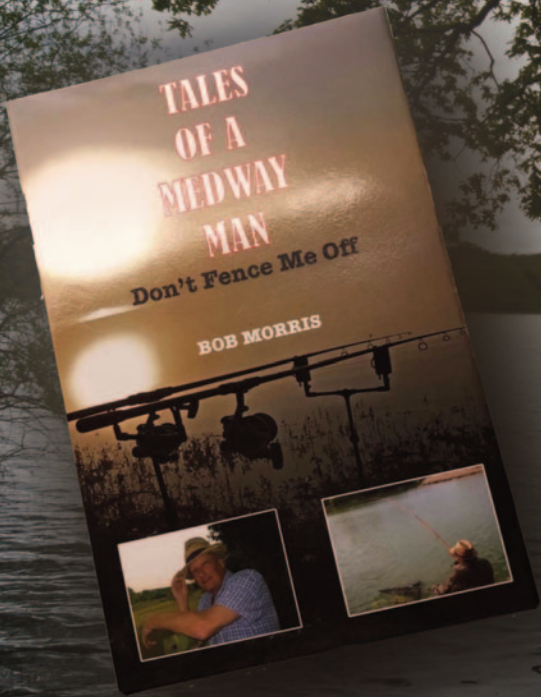
I am sure that I will be keeping his memory alive in my future writings if that is allowed but one thing is certain Jim Gibbinson was one of the all-time greats on the fishing front and will be much missed by the angling world.

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