



Whether you are an experienced angler or just starting out, we have everything you need to 'Catch the impossible'



www.rmtackle.co.uk

38-40 Avenue Road, Bexley Heath, Kent DA74EG

Carp to 49lb+



RCHARD PLACE FARM FISHIN

13 FISHING LAKES in the KENT COUNTRYSIDE Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6NY

01892 838576 or 07860 608218 Catfish to 112lb+ At Orchard Place Farm you can surround yourself in the

natural beauty of the Kent countryside, located just outside of the picturesque town of Paddock Wood, and only 8 miles from Maidstone. The fishery boasts 13 lakes - 10 carp and catfish lakes and 3 match/pleasure lakes.

SPECIMEN LAKES

DAY TICKETS AVAILABLE 24HR - £30 48HR - £55 (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

DAY TICKETS 2 RODS - £10 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.



NEW TO ORCHARD PLACE FARM! HORSMONDEN FISHING LAKES



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



Welcome to the December edition of The Freshwater Informer

With Christmas only a few weeks away, we hope you've all got your wish lists sent off to Santa and are looking forward to the year ahead.

This month's magazine is packed with great articles from our fantastic columnists, who work hard to cover all aspects of angling throughout the seasons. If any of you fancy submitting a piece, we'll always do our very best to include your writing — though as you can appreciate, space can be tight at times.

Wishing you all a festive and fish-filled run-up to Christmas! 🎄 🐟



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. We are working hard behind the scenes to bring you all more great contant into 2026



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 Chrismas and a Prosperous New year, The FWI Team.

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The Freshwater Informer email: info@freshwaterinformer.com

COPY DEADLINE for January 2026 Magazine Sunday 4th January 2026 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







Alex Coutts With a Tricklebrook Perch







What a session for Charlie Onslow landing 22 carp during a 48 hour session on new lake with the biggest going 37.10lb



Arthur - Quarry Lake 16lb Common



Si Fishes Visited Us - 20lb Common and a 1lb 8oz Perch

Arthur - Quarry Lake 16lb Common



Jack - 28lb Common Dove



Reece Wickens - 31.5lb Mirror Dove Lake



Mason Morris - 35lb catfish Quarry Lake PB



Mason Morris - 15lb 8oz Common Quarry Lake

Hawkhurst Fish Farm

Hastings Road, Hawkhurst, Kent, TN18 4RT

Ample Parking – Shower & Toilets -Tackle Shop & Café on site!

All lakes (excluding Specimen Lake) close 22nd December until 30th January.

MATCH LAKE BOOKINGS STILL AVAILABLE FOR 2026.

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK AND **INSTAGRAM PAGES FOR REGULAR UPDATES:**

Search: Hawkhurst Fish Farm

Lake Exclusive Hire!

Book now for exclusive hire of Main Lake (up to 11 anglers) or Dove Lake (up to 6 anglers). Spaces do fill up quickly so please get in touch if you would like to book!

Wishing you a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year! Tight lines to you all



T: 01580 854702 E: info@hawkhurstfishfarm.co.uk www.hawkhurstfishfarm.co.uk



TRICKLEBROOK FISHERY

This fantastic coarse fishery consists of two very well stocked lakes.

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



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TEL 07743 955812 | 01892 835453 | EMAIL info@tricklebrookfishery.co.uk
Tricklebrook Fishery | Colts Hill | Five Oak Green | TN12 6SH

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



6 INFORMER December 2025



The dog walkers of Eastbourne could have been mistaken for thinking that they had stumbled upon a twitchers convention at Shinewater Country Park on a Sunday morning in late September. Various men, dressed in camo, wandered aimlessly around the bushes staring vacantly into the sky. The truth was that we were anglers. An even bigger truth is that we were all lost. Male ego prevented us from admitting this, or asking for directions. Instead, individuals would cautiously venture off down some random side path, only to reappear a few minutes later, a little further along the main drag.

Somehow, we all eventually managed to fall into line behind someone who at least looked as if they knew where they were heading, and a few minutes later the narrow path opened out into the glorious vista of Hydneye Lake.

The purpose of this gathering was to attend a Pike Fishing Teach-In.

Run by renowned pike angler Chris Tingley, on behalf of Southdown & Hydneye Angling Club, the 'Pike Pass' initiative ensures that all anglers have a basic level of understanding when it comes to fishing for and handling, these amazing, yet surprisingly fragile fish.

The scheme has been so successful that it has been rolled out across the majority of local clubs, hence the confusion of us visiting anglers, and the majority now insist upon anglers being in possession of a Pike Pass to fish their waters for the species.

For older anglers it might be seen as a refresher course, for the inexperienced, an education, but there is no doubt that everyone in attendance learned something from Chris' vast knowledge on the subject.

Chris is not only passionate about Pike, he is also passionate about helping anglers in their pursuit. More than once, I've heard it said that there are no friends in Pike fishing, but having covered subjects including appropriate tackle, unhooking,

handling and returning pike, Chris shared some of the 'edges' that have made him so successful over the years. Freezing deadbaits with a curve in them to ensure that they settle hook side up on the lakebed. Tweaking treble hooks so that two points secure the bait, with the third standing proud to maximise hooking

potential. How, and where, to place the hooks to minimise the risk of deep hooking. As well as how to improve bite

indication. Along with all of this information he also threw in some trivia. For example, I never knew that pike can swim at speeds of 15mph for every foot of body length.

After an enjoyable couple of hours we all left. Laminated pike passes in our pockets, new ideas swirling in our heads, and shared confidence for

the winter ahead.

It wasn't until mid November that I had a chance to put this new knowledge into practice. A short notice afternoon off saw



me rummaging around in the bottom of the freezer for the remnants of last seasons deadbaits. Four rather sorry looking roach was the result. Not much, but enough. I keep all of my traces, hooks, forceps, wire cutters, etc, in a bucket, and once I'd torn the house apart looking for the 'safe place' that I'd left it, that bit was sorted. Then it was time to 'unsheathe the beast'. The Beast is my original

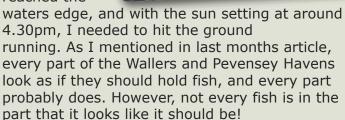
Richard Walker mkiv Stepped Up cane rod. When originally built, they were supposed to have a nominal test curve of 2lb. In truth they varied wildly, and with my example you could probably add half as much again and still have change. It is a monster of a rod that only comes out for the heaviest of my fishing. A permanent fixture on the cork handle is another of my pride and joys, a

Richard Carter Dragonfly centrepin, loaded with 20lb line. Together they make for an unstoppable combination. An unhooking mat and

decent sized landing net completed the set up, all that was needed was a water containing pike.

The drains of the Pevensey Levels have a long history of producing pike, so it was there that I headed.

It was after 3pm that I reached the



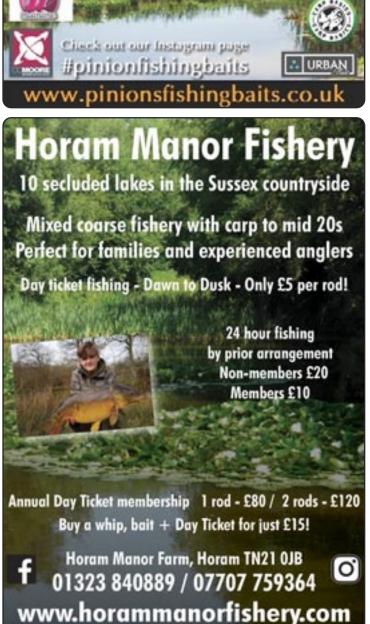
With the clock ticking, I hooked one of the small roach onto my rig. Like Bob Morris, I frequently use single hooks for my pike fishing. The fact that most of it is done at close range, means that I don't need the added security of trebles to absorb the power of the cast, and I find them easier to remove.

I cast out alongside a bed of weed, and watched the float slowly draw to attention. Nothing happened. Optimism turned to agitation as I willed the float to move. My gaze went from the water to the sky. The sun was slowly sinking, my float was not. The minutes ticked by. Sun, float, float, sun. Almost frantic, I looked hopelessly up and down the stretch. Suddenly, a sign. Small fish erupted on the surface, forty yards along the bank. Very small fish, probably being chased by perch, but it was something, and something is better than nothing. I hastily reeled in, grabbed my bucket, mat, and landing net, and stumbled across the uneven ground, trying to keep eyes on the spot where the disturbance had occurred. No more signs, but no more options either. I checked the bait, altered the depth of the float, and swung it out with a silent prayer to the angling gods.

Nothing happened. Not wanting the trip to become a complete waste of time, I set up my camera on a tripod to catch some (lack of) action shots. I zoomed in on the float, framed it perfectly, let go of the tripod, and the float moved out of shot. Lightweight tripods can be prone to twisting, especially on steep banks. I re-centred the shot, checked everything was tight, and stepped back. Again the viewfinder was empty. It was at this point that I realised that it was the float moving rather than the camera. Panic set in. I grabbed the rod, which was only two steps away, lost my head, struck wildly, felt the briefest thump of a fish, before everything fell slack. Crestfallen, I reeled in. Possibly my only chance, and I'd messed it up. In sheer frustration, I slapped the whole lot out into the middle of the channel, cursing under my breath. With daylight fast running out, and no time to move, a blank was looming over me like the darkness on the horizon. I looked to the water once more. The float moved, barely perceptible, but it moved. I thought that my eyes were playing tricks on me, but no, it moved again. Slowly, slowly, ever so slowly. This time there was no panic. I still wasn't convinced it was a pick up. I thought that maybe the undertow was pulling the float. I held the line between my thumb and forefinger, it tightened. There was something there. I wound down and struck. The 'Beast' grudgingly yielded a few inches at the tip section as a jack pike came splashing to the surface. Big or small, I didn't care, a pike's a pike when it's the first of the season, and I was grateful to see it in the net. At somewhere around the 22 inch mark it was probably a 25mph fish. Imagine, I thought to myself as I slipped it back, hooking one capable of reaching 60mph. They are out there... Alex









Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all from Greenacres farm fishery

Everyone please read our rules online before booking up and any enquiries don't hesitate to ring up and ask or drop us a text look forward to seeing you on the bank!!!!

The carp have slowed down on feeding now the cold weather is in, but dont let that put you off as they are still being caught but not in big numbers like they do during the water months. Tactics are lightly baited areas of sweetcorn and pellet, or fish with a pva bag close to the islands or inner margins, with every fish caught top up the baited area with a couple more spombs.

Perch fishing on here has been rewarding to anglers that are willing to fish for them with some just shy of 4lb.

These fish have all been caught on float fishing tactics by using worm or maggot on the hook and constantly sprinkling maggots over the top on every cast with a catapult to keep the rudd and roach in the swim which will then attract the big perch to feed. There has also been some caught on small jelly lures.

Greenacres Team

December 2025



www.fishontackle.co.uk

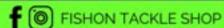
OPEN MON - SAT 8:30am -5:30pm



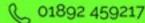


SOUTH EAST BIGGEST TACKLE SHOP!

- CARP SPECIALISTS
- BIVVY & BEDCHAIR SHOWROOM
- IN HOUSE COOKED PARTICLE
- PREDATOR SPECIALIST
- BIGGEST RANGE OF LURES IN THE SOUTH EAST
- LURE DEMO TANK
- TWO FLOORS OF ALL THE LEADING BRANDS
- MATCH FISHING SPECIALISTS
- THE BEST, FRESHEST MAGGOT, PINKIE & SQUATT
- FRESH IN HOUSE TURNED CASTER
- REDS, DENDROBEANA & LOBS, TUBS-1KG SACKS
- BIGGEST RANGE OF CLOTHING KIDS TO 4XL
- PLENTY OF FREE PARKING
- FRIENDLY EXPERT ADVICE







FORSTAL BUSINESS PARK - MAIDSTONE ROAD - PADDOCK WOOD - KENT - TN12 6PY













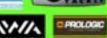






























James Flashman - 29.10 North Lake



Alex King - 16.3 Kettles lake



Grant Chaplin - 35lb.3oz Prairie lake



Paul Kent - 42.2lb North Lake



Michael Lait - Ghost - 29lb 12oz



George Barrel - Prairie Lake -31lb 5oz







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





Mark Day Plucks Gutter -17lb Pike



Mark Day - River Pike



Mark Day - River Pike



Green Acres - Perch



Freddy Joe Beaney - Medway Pike



Neil Wale - Stunning Early Pike





Freddie Barker - Hawkhurst - 65lb Catfish

Iden Wood **Fishery**

Tel/Fax: Andy Ashdown 01797 280180 Mobile:

07906 232225

5 secluded lakes set in 60 acres of woodland, containing Carp to 30lbs, Tench to 5lbs, Bream to 9lb plus Roach, Rudd and Chub

Vehicle access/night fishing allowed / match bookings taken

Spring Lodge | Iden Wood Fishery | Coldharbour Lane | Iden | Rye | East Sussex | TN317UT

RESHWATER **December 2025**

More House Farm Fishery

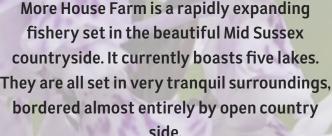




catch

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!



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.





Fishing Clubs







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.

WE HAVE NOW JOINED CLUBMATE

View the waters on the web

www.tonbridge-angling.co.uk

https://tdafps.clubmate.co.uk/register

NEW Gold Membership £225 + £10 Joining Fee **NEW** Silver Membership £85 + £10 Joining Fee

NEW Bronze Membership
OAP 66+/Student 16-18/Disabled
(Proof Needed) £45 + £10 Joining Fee

For all enquiries please email: info@tonbridge-angling.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

Tony Cooper continued his fine predator form with a cracking 23lb 8oz specimen.

Carp are still being caught on Barden Lake with fish to just over the 40lb mark being reported.

Some good quality Roach to 1lb 6oz being caught through the river sections and good mixed bags being reported from Haysden Lake.

MATCH RESULTS

HOUGHTON CUP 2 - SPORTSGROUND 18 fished

1st - Austin Battell 26lb 14oz
2nd - Colin Fowler 15lb 0oz
3rd - Steve Parker 14lb 2oz

HOUGHTON CUP 3

LONG REACH/BUNGALOWS - 16 fished

1st - Andy Jones 86lb 10oz 2nd - Phil Edwards 8lb 9oz 3rd - Jim Sene 7lb 0oz

CANE & PIN - MUCK STREAM - 7 fished

1st - Mick Smith 7lb 14oz2nd - Jim Sene 4lb 3oz3rd - Ditch Howard 3lb 10oz

CHEESEMAN CUP - OLD BALLAST PIT 18 fished

1st - Paul Reddy 6lb 13oz2nd - Alan Brooks 4lb 4oz3rd - Paul Mitchell 4lb 4oz

PIKE MATCH - HAYSDEN COUNTRY PARK 18 fished

1st - Neal Rogers 8lb 13oz 2nd - Cristian Pupazan 7lb 0oz 3rd - Alez Stokes 6lb 15oz









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, Preston and Sonubaits to Dynamite and Sticky plus many more, including maggots, worms and freezer baits. Also New range from Skeeter.

We also have a large range of Air Rifles and Workwear, Waterproofs, STC Boots, Hiking Boots and Wellies





























INNOVATIONS















SONUBAITS





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Phone: 01323 846883 Email: info@mfcoutdoorstores.co.uk 9 Station Road, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 2BE Free parking in 100+ space carpark opposite the shop.





Fish of the Month Prize Winner



Jacob Murray - 32.7lb common PB - Local Club



Joe Baker - Rosies Lake Wylands 22lb 1oz Mirror

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 Jacob on landing a stunning 32lb 7oz carp from His Local Club Water — 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!



Colin Brown - Cottington's -Lake Windsor



Jeff - Mousehole Fishery Common



Logan Hutchison -Reservoir Brute



Joe Baker 29lb 1oz Ghosty Elphicks



Joe Baker - Wylands 24lb Common



Si Fishes - Tonbridge Club Water



More House Farm Fishery -Common



24lb Common Peg 11 -More House Farm Fishery



Jason (JBAcarpin) -Mousehole Common



Frankie - Mousehole Common



01227 636724 / 07809 330854

Plenty of FREE parking right outside the door Monday to Saturday 9am - 5pm / Sunday 9am -1pm 12 Wealden Forest Park, Herne Common CT6 7LQ

Between Canterbury & Herne Bay on A291 - just 10 minutes from either! Email: badders22000@hotmail.com

BAIT AVAILABILITY DEPENDENT ON TIDE AND WEATHER CONDITIONS





PACKAGE DEALS

Dark camo Sonik xtractor rods 10 ft 3.5lb and Sonik xtractor reels & Sonik subsonik 12lb or 15lb line.

Okuma inc 6000s and Carp spirit 12ft 3.5lb blax rods & Sonik subsonic 12 or 15lb line

Fox eos 10000FD reels and NGT XPR catfish rods & Gardner 20lb line

Sonik 4.5lb cat rods and sonic GS xtractors & Gardner 20lb line

£ 285

£ 250

£ 2000

£275

FISHING PACKAGES

36-hours special - New Speci Lake, Rosies Lake, Middle Lake, Maisies Lake

24-hours special - New Speci Lake, Rosies Lake, Middle Lake, Maisies Lake

£ 30

£ 20 Saving £10

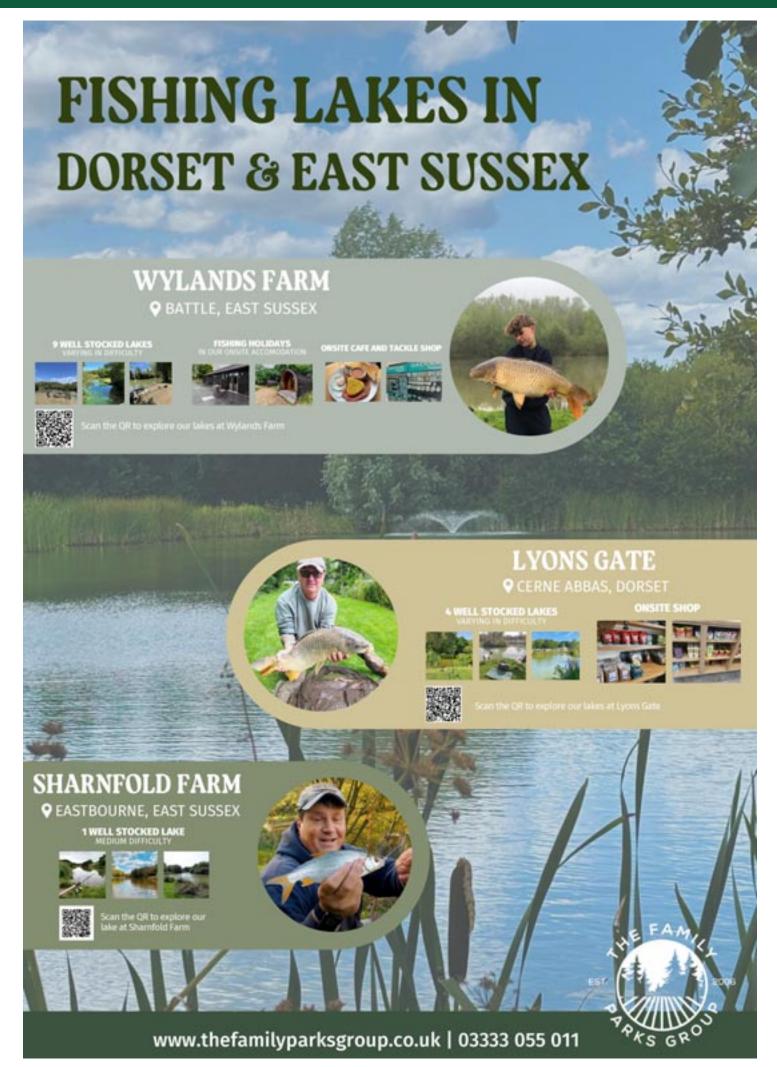
Lakeside Pod

 ${}^{2}40$ per night aving £10.00



Book now via the QR code or please call on 01424 893 394

WYLANDS



TIM'S JOURNEY.

END OF THE YEAR REPORT ..

With Christmas fast approaching and the cold weather tightening its grip, time on the bank has been a little limited this month—so I thought it was the perfect moment to look back on my year. It's fair to say 2025 has been a whirlwind both on and off the bank, and one filled with memories that I'm grateful to share with the readers of the Freshwater Informer.

20

The year started exactly where the last one finished—out on the road at a handful of fantastic fishing shows. I always enjoy this time of year: getting the magazine out to new areas, catching up with our advertisers, discovering new products, and chatting with the companies who shape our sport. There's something grounding about picking up a new item of tackle, hearing the story behind it, and understanding why it works. It reminds me why I love doing what we do.

Fishing-wise, things began with a few early perch sessions alongside Dad. But our first proper trip of the year was a 48-hour session at Shirkoak Farm Fishery. We booked one of the cabins and enjoyed some brilliant captures during our stay—along with the legendary Shirkoak breakfast, which remains a solid 10/10 in my book.

Not long after that session, my fishing took an unexpected back seat. Dad surprised me with a motorbike so I could get to college and work... but as many riders know, the bug bites fast. Before long, every spare moment I had was spent out on the bike, meeting friends, and exploring the local bike night scene. The Six Bells at Chiddingly quickly became a Tuesday-night staple—more than 500 bikes rolling in, over the summer Dad and I attended most of them, and they became a real highlight of our year together. We even rode to Brands Hatch to watch the bikes, and it's safe to say I've found a new passion. Despite the newfound obsession, we still made time to visit a number of fisheries



featured in the Informer. Throughout the summer we covered venue features at: Shirkoak Farm Fishery, Hawkhurst Fishery, Elphicks, More House Farm Fishery, Wylands Farm, Trickle Brook, and Gabriels Fishery.

We had some great sessions, though I'll admit not quite as prolific as the previous year—mainly because, back when I was still at school, I simply had more time. It really brought home a truth we all sometimes forget: fancy baits and top-end tackle help, but time is what truly puts fish on the bank. Sadly, you can't buy that! So next year, Dad and I are determined to manage our fishing time better. Maybe I'll finally crack that new PB—or dare I say it—a thirty. Fingers crossed.

My favourite trip of the entire year was without question our visit to More House Farm Fishery. It's a new venue for the magazine, and it quickly became one of my favourites. It was made even more special because it was Katelyn's first ever overnight fishing trip. We had an amazing time and caught loads of fish—you can read the full write-up in the September issue. (Downloadable from our Archive)

Next year, we're planning even more venue adventures together. Both of us are working toward passing our driving tests, and Dad is taking me out every night in my car for practice. I can't wait for the day I can load the rods in the boot and head off on my own.

Looking ahead into 2026, Katelyn and I will be heading to Krabi in Thailand in April. It wasn't planned around fishing, but just so happens to be the home of the famous Gillhams – and there's no way we're going all that way without trying to squeeze in at least a day's fishing. If we do, Jim's Journey will officially go international! With a bit of luck, I'll return with a story and maybe even a photo of one of the venue's incredible species.

I'll wrap things up by wishing every reader of the Freshwater Informer a fantastic year ahead. Your photos, messages and support mean everything to us. If your catch means something to you, it means the world to the magazine—so keep those pictures coming. Tight lines,

Merry Christmas, and here's to an even better year on the bank in 2026.







GUIDED FLY & LURE FISHING DAYS WITH ANDY LUSH

FLY FISHING One of Andy's favourite methods is no longer just for trout. In recent years Andy has been successful at catching specimen carp, throughout the summer from local day ticket waters.

CARP: Andy shares his knowledge and experience in this rapidly growing form of fly fishing. He has written two blogs for Fulling Mill specifically detailing the tackle and tactics he uses; follow this link www.fullingmill.co.uk

TROUT: Boat fishing on Bewl Water or Powdermill reservoir, learn how to locate and catch fish on these large intimidating waters, or fish one of the smaller local fisheries. Learn where trout find their food during the changing seasons; understand this and you will 'catch more fish'.

LURE FISHING: A day afloat with Andy, fishing local reservoirs for Pike, Perch or Zander will see you learning how to search these large bodies of water. Fishing from a boat while using different styles of lures, fish finders and droques is all part of a successful reservoir angler's armoury.

WEBSITE: View available options here: www.thefriendlyfisherman.co.uk
TO BOOK A DAY email: info@thefriendlyfisherman.co.uk with your contact
phone number and Andy will call you back and discuss details.



Toung Guns on the Bank

This week I (Andy Lush) had the pleasure of taking two enthusiastic young anglers out on the bank — and both are already excited about seeing their achievements in a future issue of The Freshwater Informer.

First up was **Leo Neal**, who joined me at Bewl Water. Already a keen lure angler, Leo wasted no time getting into the perch before his session took an exciting turn. Mid-retrieve, his rod slammed over and he found himself connected to a surprise bonus pike — a brilliant moment for any young predator angler.

I also spent a day with **Harrington Blowers**, who was eager to enjoy a session with Andy Lush. Fishing Sandwich Lake at Elphicks, Harrington showed great composure on the pellet waggler, hooking into several carp throughout the day. His highlight was a beautifully marked 16lb mirror carp — a fish any angler would be proud of.















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Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman

They aay a change is as good as a rest!

They say a change is as good as a rest; so I took a break and accompanied James Gardner to Grafham Water reservoir in pursuit of rainbow trout.

We were going to fish in a club competition with the England Fly Fishing Association; James is a member and I was his guest. As we loaded our gear into the boat we couldn't help but notice how low the water level was. In fact, it was so low there was barely enough water to float the boat. We were instructed not to start the engine until we were outside the harbour; otherwise the engine's impellor would suck in mud rather than cooling water!

It was a mild overcast morning with the brisk breeze blowing across the reservoir. We were both looking forward to a successful day; we had been informed the trout were being caught in the upper layers of the water. Grafham is a very exciting place to fish in the autumn; it's a time of year when the trout switch into feeding mode again, after enduring the heat of summer. With hatches of daddy long-legs, plus the infamous killer shrimp, and a plentiful supply of coarse fish fry, there is a rich smorgasbord on offer.

As expected, the fleet of boats headed towards the north shore, from 'pylon point' all the way down towards the 'willows' and the 'dam'. Our first drift was towards 'G' buoy and 'deep water point', both well-known hot spots. James was going to fish with a floating line and a team of unweighted nymphs. The match was being fished to 'international rules', so weighted flies were not allowed. Casting downwind of the boat, he counted down five seconds before starting a fairly brisk strip retrieve. This was partly to eliminate slack line, and partly to move his flies at a controlled speed. Despite deploying the drogue, we were drifting quite fast.

My starting gambit was also to use a floating line; my team of flies, however, consisted of a floating shrimp - top dropper, hackled hare's ear - middle dropper, and a daddy long-legs dry fly - on the point. Conditions were ideal for some surface sport, although it was a little chillier out on the water than we'd expected.

Within minutes of starting the drift, James lifted

into his first fish of the day; this fell to an olive diawl bach on the point. His second and third fish followed shortly after, also on the point fly. Anglers all around us were also playing fish; so we were definitely in the right area. With no takes or other indications, my confidence in my chosen tactics quickly evaporated.

I needed to change my approach; I stayed on the floating line but changed flies; these were now selected for pulling. As I mentioned earlier, the speed of the retrieve is to eliminate slack line and move the flies at a controlled speed. This sounds easy until you factor in the wind's habit of changing direction and speed; the boat also has a tendency to swing from side to side [yawing], as the wind increases. I have to admit that when it's necessary to retrieve faster than my usual figure of eight, I'm out of my comfort zone and struggle. My new selection was: cormorant - top dropper, gold-ribbed hare's ear - middle dropper, olive marabou nymph - point. My flies would now be fishing a little deeper than before, but still high enough in the water to be seen by the trout.

Each drift was completed when we entered the shallow margins; we left it as late as possible before repositioning the boat, as trout were feeding right in the shallow margins on the infamous 'killer shrimps'. We staggered our drifts along the bank, as we searched the shoreline towards the dam. As we passed the 'willows', the wind swung and pushed us parallel to the shore; this turned out to be our most productive drift.

James was getting plenty of offers, converting most of them into hooked fish. The competition was being fished 'catch and release'; your first eight fish were to be measured, and would decide your position in the event. If you caught your eight fish quickly, you would be awarded a time bonus.

I still wasn't getting takes, so my next move was to change fly lines. Off came the floater, on went a 3ft [91cm] 'midge tip', sink tip line. I hoped this would add a little extra depth to my flies; as I thought this was the problem. On reflection, I think my problem was my inability to keep in contact with my fly line. Without that contact or tension, I think my flies were probably going too deep? What I now think I should have done was change to a full sinking line! I would have to

retrieve much faster to prevent it going too deep, but this extra speed would have kept everything straight and taut.

Two drifts later, and still no fish, I switched lines again; on went a 6ft [182cm] 'midge tip' line. Finally, I had a take, which I missed, but it was a positive sign! On the next drift, I finally had a take and hooked a fish! What a relief; on the tape, it measured 55cm, a very nice rainbow trout. I added a further two fish which calmed my nerves.



Around mid-afternoon, the wind eased, the sun poked through and the temperature rose. The next few fish James caught were now on his middle dropper fly; which suggested the fish had moved higher up in the water. A little later, he started catching on the top dropper, and my takes had completely stopped! Getting the depth and speed right is critical, and I was sure I needed to alter my flies' depth, so I had to switch lines again! Off came the 6ft tip line, on went the 3ft tip, shortly after this, it was replaced by the floater. I still wasn't getting any takes, while James continued to catch using his original combination; he just altered his countdown to fish shallower.

Peter de Kremer, fishing near us, was catching on small dry flies; this encouraged me to change to dries too. I tied on a team of CDC hoppers, top dropper - hare's ear, middle - black, point claret. Within minutes of starting our next drift I caught a fish on the claret hopper! I've always found claret to be an effective colour, for dries in the autumn. I don't know why this is; it just is! Another fish, again on the claret, then I missed

two as they swirled at the black hopper, which was now sitting too low in the water. This was replaced with a more buoyant one. Now I was in the game, missing offers, hooking fish, losing fish; but it was fun. James was still catching plenty on his nymphs, but fancied a change, so switched to dries as well. He chose some brash orange creations that would have been more appropriate as ear-rings. However, the trout loved them and he quickly caught another dozen fish, completely out-fishing my more subtle offerings.



the day came to a close we beat a hasty retreat back to the fishing harbour and readied ourselves for the after-match refreshments and results. Thirty-seven anglers fished, including eleven guests, with a rod average of a little under seven fish per angler. The biggest fish of 56cm was caught on a dry fly, which beat me by 1cm. To my surprise though I was top rod amongst the guest anglers, "better to be lucky than good".

Til' next month, tight lines.

Andy Lush















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See Page 15 for more details for **MFC**



MFC Store Prize Winner – James Ridley



🖟 Avid Freshwater Informer reader James put Alex's article from our November issue to good use on a local Crowborough club water — and it paid off in style! He landed this cracking 2lb 2oz perch, using the tips straight from the magazine. Fantastic result, James — great angling and great to see the advice helping anglers on their local waters!







Fish With Carl Winner: Tyler Cooper

Fish With Carl – Signed Book Winner!

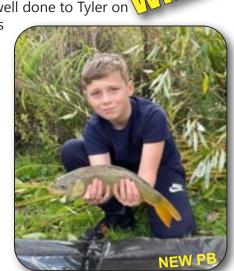
🗿 The Bait Bucket Tackle Warehouse in Newhaven held their very first junior coaching session last month — and it was a great success. Ten-year-old Tyler Cooper enrolled for the taster day and headed to the bank for some hands-on support. Tyler managed to catch a couple of fish

during the session, picked up some great tips, and came away buzzing with confidence for the future. A big well done to Tyler on

a fantastic day's fishing — and congratulations on winning a signed Fish With Carl book!









James Ridley - River Ouse -11oz Perch



Max Bayliss - Warwick Wold Waters - Carp



Zac Bayliss - Warwick Wold Waters - Carp



Horam Manor Fishery - Carp



James Scott-Youldon 15



Tyler Cooper 10,



Ruben Dickinson 10



Joseph - More House Farm Fishery



Hattie - Mousehole Common



Lennie Goldup - Beachbourough - 26 lb Common Carp



Henry Parfitt - Upam Farm Fisheries - Carp 16lb 9oz



Frankie - Mousehole Common



Green Acres - Cat Fish



Green Acres - Cat Fish



Green Acres - Mirror Carp



Common Carp - Local Fishery

Fishing Tale Films

What a Great Start to Autumn

by Russ Evans

Giant Gudgeon, specimen Perch and a huge Eel have given me an Autumn to remember so far and I somewhat think the best is still to come. Kicking off where I left off in my last column the second day of my trip to the beautiful Whinwhistle Fishery in Hampshire saw me target the big specimen Perch that live in Keepers Lake. Having had an enjoyable morning the day before where huge Gudgeon had surprised me with the size in a mixed species catch on the fisheries section of the River Blackwater, Keepers Lake was situated virtually right next to the Shepherds Hut where I was staying and Liked the look

ated virtually right next to the Shepherds Hut where I was staying and I liked the look of the nearest swim to the hut in a corner of the lake with lots of margin cover which is the first thing I look for when fishing for perch. With hookbaits such as lobworms and prawns plus a pint or two of red maggots to feed over the

top of my BBF Bobber or Korum 3G loaded blob float tactics it has become a method of fishing for perch that I feel comfortable with and has served me well for a good fifteen years now which countless specimen perch.

It was a drizzly old day, very dark and overcast perfect for fishing for the perch but it was still fairly mild and I knew my session was going to be interrupted by other species and it was. First fish was a nice roach/bream hybrid well over the pound mark and that was followed later by small skimmers and perch. The session started off nice and slowly that gradually kicked into life as I introduced more feed into the swim and it was late morning when I hooked into a nice looking perch that weighed 1lbs 5oz but it was a little later that the carp moved into my feeding zone and I was playing double figure commons on my perch tackle which was all good fun, I just took my time with each one before slipping the net pan under the prize. They were in excellent condition as the day moved on into late afternoon I was banking on the last hour of the day producing my best chance of a specimen perch (anything over 2lbs) Patience was the key and I was rewarded with a fine perch just over that 2lbs mark after it took a liking to my large cooked prawn. I had worked hard at it all day and had an enjoyable day catching quality fish at regular intervals finishing off with that fine Perch.

After spending another night in the Hut (minimum two days stay) I was heading off home on the Saturday morning looking forward to planning another stay at this very friendly and lovely fishery.

Tricklebrook Perch Keep Me Occupied

Being only 35 minutes away from my home I am puzzled why I have never fished at Tricklebrook

Fishery before until this season, I love
the place especially as it contains
the big perch that I seek. I had
two sessions on the Old
Specimen lake and felt in
tuned with it as soon as I
took a glimpse of the 4 acre
lake when I fished the small
lake back in September. 15th
October was my first session
on the Old Lake after booking in
with Swimbooker and I was looking
forward to it. I plumped for a corner swim

because it had lots of bankside cover and plumbing the depth along the margins found it had a nice depth to work with. I set up a perch bobber on one rod and a Korum blob on the other fishing one with large prawn and the other with pieces of lobworm. It was manic from the off with small perch up 12 ounces a chuck so very quickly I put one of the rods up the bank and concentrated on just one rod especially as I was filming for my channel. The perch kept me busy as I alternated between the two margin lines and then I finally hooked into a decent perch that was just under the 2lbs mark. The action stopped and started as late morning approached and then with a big prawn on a size 10 hook my float slid away and I was into a much better perch that put up a grab scrap before eventually making it's way into my net pan. It weighed 2lbs 7oz





and was a lovely young looking fish that I am sure is going to grow very big very quickly. With over 50 perch could well have been more I packed up early afternoon looking for a return in a couple of weeks time. 29th October and I was booked in again but this time I had to fish the opposite side of the lake as a couple of carp anglers were already in the spots I was thinking but it was no bad thing as it gave me a good look at the rest of the lake as again I was filming the session.

The Bobber Slid Away and a Big Fish was On!

This time I set up just

the one rod as it was still mildish and from what had happened two weeks earlier I was expecting a busy session, but for the first twenty minutes all was quiet as I was fishing with a raw prawn for the first time. I was kind of doing a Raw versus Cooked Prawn experiment although I had lobs for mainly chopping and cupping scent into the margins. I put on a lobworm to see if any perch were about and after a couple of minutes the float buried and a small perch came my way. Three more casts on the lob produced the same result so I

knew they were about and in numbers. I fished mainly prawn alternating between raw and cooked prawn and

got mixed results to prove that one was better than the other. The biggest Perch I had was just over the pound

mark but every now and then the swim would go quiet which to me is a sign that big fish are moving in and out of the swim. Had some big Perch turned up? Only

time would tell so I concentrated even harder as my gut was telling me something was just about to happen and I had to be alert. I had a large cooked prawn on a size 8 barbless all rounder hook when my float dipped, dipped again and then moved slowly to my right before sliding away and out of sight, I counted to two and then struck into the bite which resulted in a bend in the rod and a powerful fish taking a bit of line of the reel, was is at last that big 4lbs+ perch I was after? The fish was certainly bigger than anything I had hooked previously during my brief time at Tricklebrook and I was getting a bit excited until I saw my float come up and it was zig zagging, my first thought was I had accidentally hooked a big carp in the tail but after a few more seconds as I applied a bit more pressure a big head appeared at the surface and it was followed by a very long and thick body, it was an eel and a massive one at that. My normal net pan could not scoop the eel up as it was too long so I quickly turned to my large specimen net which is a fishery rule because of the specimen carp that reside the lake and after a couple of attempts netted this huge fish. It weighed a fraction under 4lbs and I had never seen an eel this big before in the flesh. To witness the British record eel of 11lbs 3oz caught by Steve Ricketts last June must

have been an incredible sight to

was a new PB and I went home a very happy angler, the film footage of the session can be seen on my Fishing Tail Films You-Tube channel which I am proud to say has reached a subscriber ship of 5.4k So thank you if you are a subscriber.

Needless to say it

I cannot believe another year has gone whizzing by and I would like to wish all the readers and everyone at the Freshwater Informer a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2026

See you in the New Year

Russ Evans



LOCAL TACKLE SHOP'S JUNIOR COACHING SESSION A GREAT SUCCESS

The Bait Bucket Tackle Warehouse in Newhaven hosted their first junior coaching session last month.

Three young would be anglers joined our fully qualified Level 2 Angling Trust Coach, Jo alongside team members Dave and Alan for an introductory session at Deanlands Pond. The juniors were introduced to water safety, safe handling of fish and learnt how to set up and use a whip and feeders.

After catching loads of roach on the whips we targeted carp and are pleased to say that all juniors managed to catch some carp.

The juniors had a fantastic time and the smiles say it all. The parents watching on were pleased to see their children having such a great time and are now looking forward to taking them fishing again.

Jo said "It was great to organise our first coaching session and to see the juniors enjoying their fishing. Our sincere thanks go to Seaford Angling Club for the use of their waters and also to OMC for the whips, feeders and kits used in the session".

The Bait Bucket Tackle Warehouse will be running more junior sessions in the spring time for both freshwater and sea fishing. If you have a child interested in learning the sport please get in touch and get your name down for next year.

As a footnote: One of our juniors, James, talked his mum in to taking him fishing again a few days after the session and sent in a photo of his first ever mirror carp, He was over the moon.





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The Diary of an Match Angler

Gedges Lakes (Lake 1) Written By Freddy Joe Beany

Hi all,

This month you join me at Gedges lakes for a team match against another club. The match was held on lake 1 (the main lake) out of the other 4 lakes on the complex. The match was (silverfish only) which meant carp do not count.

From recent practice sessions i've had on lake 1 fishing the pegs along the dam wall for the skimmers have been prolific with nets of skimmers to 37lb! This is where I wanted to be ideally. 8am draw time, peg... 15 which is permanent peg 42, nowhere near the dam wall and a long walk. Arrived at the peg and fancied it, I had plenty of water to work with and was told that this peg had won matches in the past. This boosted my confidence so, enough messing around and time to get setup!

Plumbing the peg was very nice and simple. I set up one line at 14m which was around 4 1/2-5ft deep with a firm bottom and dead flat and another line at 10m being my short line which was the same however a couple of inches shallower. When pluming up I personally find the guru 20g plummets are a game changer as they have a flat surface that read everything that's on the bottom of your peg like rocks ect a great piece of kit!

Rigs:

Skimmer Rig: 0.4g Drennan round bodied patten SF float tied to 0.12 matrix micron mainline with a shot taper of 6 no.11's and a bulk of 7 no.10's. 6" 0.10 fluorocarbon hook length with a Drennan silverfish patten hook in a size 16's. No.8 Preston original slip elastic.

Roach Type Rig: 0.4g slim bodied Drennan SF pattern float tied to 0.12 matrix micron with a

tapered bulk of 13 no.11's. 6" 0.10 fluorocarbon with a 20's Drennan silverfish patten hook. No.6 Preston original slip elastic.

I was able to switch rigs on the both lines depending on what presentation I wanted a quicker drop to get the bait down or a slow drop to catch through and on the deck.

What's on the tray?

I have chosen to bring

- Dynamite silvers X dark roach ground-bait
- live red maggots/dead
- -hemp
- -caster
- -corn
- -worm
- -expanders
- 2mm mainline match micro's

I started the match off by feeding a ball of ground-bait with a few casters, dead reds, hemp and micros in on the both lines, once both where fed I shipped in and picked up my light tapered rig. I decided to start pretty negative as I didn't know what to expect. Shipped out to 10m on the short line with a single caster and was getting a roach virtually every put in and on the bottom, I realised that I need to now fish reasonably positive as the little bit of bait I put in at the start will probably be mopped by these roach in no time! After spending a bit of time short I came in and fed another two balls on it and went out long with the skimmer rig. I started on a grain of corn and it wasn't long before I was attached to a carp unfortunately!! First put in you couldn't write it. However, I didn't feed I just went back in and I'm glad I did as my next bite was a skimmer. After landing the first skimmer I also fed

another two balls long. I adjusted the depth so I could fish my skimmer rig on the short line and first out I had a lovely skimmer of around 2lb followed by a smaller skimmer but I had both of these on single caster in quick succession. I fed another ball short and tried a single caster long and again the floats gone with another skimmer, the bites where more positive on the single caster which I did expect. All day I was switching between these lines feeding when I came off them, and managed to tick along. I had some bonus fish like roach and perch but my weight consisted of mainly skimmers. The last hour it switched off for not only me but for everyone. I chose to pick up my roach rig and present a bait slow falling to try and keep catching which I did manage to do.

14:30pm ALL OUT!!! The scales arrived and I put 17lb 8oz's on the reading enough for the MATCH WIN!!! With the backing weight being 10lb so I'm pleased with the weight I managed.

Now back to the tackle room for the next outing.





Readers Story - A Reflection of Mark's Passion for Angling.

A long-standing contributor to the magazine, Mark shares the captures, memories, and deep connection to the sport that have shaped his lifelong love of fishing..



I thought I'd share a little story about my passion for river fishing, and especially for my favourite species—the pike.

I still absolutely love the 1st of October and the start of the pike season. Even at the age of 61, I'm like a kid in a sweet shop!

My river fishing began back in the mid-70s at Plucks Gutter with my dad, who sadly passed away earlier this year. He was still fishing well into his eighties on the river he loved. Silver fish were his passion, and he certainly knew how to fill a net. This season has started well for me on the pike front, but even on the quiet days, the wildlife and the peace you get on the river make every session a good

one. My PB still stands at 27½lb, but any pike—no matter the size—is a good pike in my eyes. Over the years I've even had the odd surprise: a 4½lb eel and a 5lb chub, both taken on sardine while targeting pike!

I'm still fishing Plucks Gutter all these years on, and it means even more to me now, as my dad's ashes were scattered there. It always feels like he's still close by when I'm on the bank. Tight lines, and enjoy your fishing—whether you're out on your own or with company.

Kind regards, Mark











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The Medway Man

Bob Morris

RESHWATER

FORMER



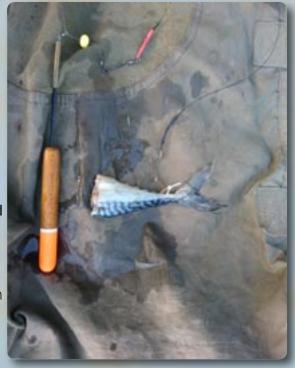
I did get my first pike of the season

With the temperatures finally dropping following the extended and incredibly mild autumn I am feeling that winter has arrived and I am now in full pike fishing mode. I really enjoy the October /November spell and usually concentrate on shallower waters or areas. I have had some success with a few pike up to mid doubles, mainly on float tactics.

Although I love to use a float and have many different types and systems for doing it, I have to

concede that there is one main problem with floats and that is that you have to watch them. This may seem obvious, but it is crucial when piking to be able to identify a take as soon as it starts to avoid deep hooking or sometimes the chance of a rejected bait. Keeping an eye on one float is hard enough, I find, as I am always getting

distracted by bankside activity, wildlife etc, but if two or three rods are being used (particularly at range) then this becomes almost impossible. For this reason I like to use floats in conjunction with an audible alarm and a good sized dropback indicator capable of instantly detecting slack line - frequently caused by a pike take at long range. I guess that this is basically carp style. I would go further and say that floats are ineffective at distance due to the problems caused by wind and sub-surface drag. I believe that a normal running weight set-up with an appropriately sized lead is far more efficient in these situations and floats can often cause more problems than they solve. The only good reason to use a float at distance is really if you need to fish your bait up off the bottom or keep the line up away from snags etc. With a running lead system, the early detection of a bite is much easier as whichever direction the pike moves in will cause a forward movement of your indicators. Having said this, I still prefer to



fish with an efficient drop back bobbin/indicator because sometimes a slack line take will occur if a tangle (even a small one) happens on the cast or the swivel/ring on the lead weight becomes blocked with weed, which will prevent it running freely. It really is a vital aspect of piking to be able to witness the start of a take as the damage done to Pike by deep hooking cannot be overstated – particularly where anglers new to the game are concerned.

I have an advantage here, as I now only use relatively small hair-rigged dead baits in conjunctions with a barbless single hook. I find that more than 90% of my Pike are hooked neatly in the corner of the mouth (scissors) and frequently I don't need to even open their jaws to extract them. This is a real win / win for both me and the pike. Having fished this way now for a good few years I can also reveal that the number of pike lost to hook pulls is, if anything, less that when I used to use treble hooks and I have to say that even if that was not the case the advantages of fishing this way totally outweigh this and I would not want go back to the grizzly old

ways.

On the picture that demonstrates the rigs that I am using you can probably see that I include a short piece of tube up from the hook for a couple of inches up the trace. This serves two purposes. Most importantly it protects the corner of the pike's mouth against damage from the wire trace, and it also shows you

exactly where the hook is located which allows for speedy removal without too much manhandling of the fish. This tube can be of a softish rubber or something stiffer like shrink tube and I often use a red coloured piece which may have some attraction to the pike, although I can't say that I can confirm this.

Back in the bad old days it was regarded as acceptable to use lines as light as 10 lb breaking strain and I remember that I read this in various angling books and articles at the time. These days I don't use anything less than 30lb for pike and often something much stronger, usually braid. This is not

because of the Pike's great strength, and I frequently couple this heavy line with light rods of 1 ½ lb when fishing at close range. It is

because the potential danger of losing a fish due to a 'snap out' either when playing a fish or during casting can have disastrous consequences for the pike – particularly when snap tackles and treble hooks generally are being used. The main aim with pike fishing should be to lose no fish and leave no unattached baits out in the water. Every time that an accident occurs it is likely to mean a dead Pike. I have witnessed Pike waters totally ruined over the years by this and it often take a very long time for them to recover.

Best Fishes & Safe Tactics



Bob Morris



Directory Listings December 2025

Coarse Fisheries		Tackle & Bait Supplies	
Beaver Farm Fishery Eastbourne Road Newchapel, Lingfield RH7 6HL 01342 324006	/ 07710 656041	Absolute Tackle12 Wealden Forest ParkHerne Common, Kent CT6 7LQ01227 636724 / 07809	330854
Charlies Lakes Steeds Lane, Kingsnorth, Ashford TN26 1NH	07857 539785		460441
Chart Hill Lakes Chart Hill Road, Chart Sutton ME17 3EZ	07398 571337	Angling Specialist (ASH)29 Queen Street, Horsham RH13 5AA01403	264644
Chequertree Trout and Coarse Fishery Bethersden, Near Ashford TN26 3JR	01233 820078	A.R. Tackle 8 Castle Street, Hastings TN34 3DY 01424	422094
Coombewood Fishery Redbrook Street, High Halden, Near Ashford TN26 3JH	07895 679569	Bait Bucket Tackle Warehouse Unit T Rich Industrial Estate, Avis Way, Newhaven BN9 0DU 01273	933050
Elphicks Fisheries Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden TN12 8EL	01580 854702	Best Buddies28 Martello Drive, Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6PH01303	487144
Eureka Fishery Nicholas Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN25 4AG	07597 879621	Bodle Angling Cuckfield Road, Burgess Hill RH15 8RE 01444	247757
Furnace Brook Fishery and Fish Farm Trolliloes, Cowbeech, near Hailsham BN27 4QR	01435 830835	Chris Brown Products email: chrisofoaks@gmail.com www.cbproducts.co.uk 01892	723670
Gabriels Fishery Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP	07730 066088	Edenbridge Angling 132 High Street, Edenbridge, TN8 5AY 01732	247702
Gabriels Fishery Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP	07730 066088	Eastbourne Aquarium & Reptile Centre 19-21 Seaside, Eastbourne BN21 3PP 01323	730635
Greenacres Farm Fishery Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden TN27 8EH	07933 934942	Henfold Bait & Tackle Henfold Lakes Henfold Lane, Newdigate, Dorking RH5 4RW 07956	043922
Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	01580 854702	Jack Frost Reynolds Place, West Green, Crawley RH11 7HB 01293	521186
Horam Manor Fishery Horam Manor Farm, Horam TN21 0JB 01323 840889	[/] 07707 759364	Gabriels Fishery Tackle Shop Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP 07730	066088
Horsmonden Lakes Grovehurst Road, Horsmonden TN12 8BQ	01892 838576	Medway Tackle Supplies 11 Twydall Green, Gillingham ME8 6JY 01634	475260
Iden Wood Fishery Coldharbour Lane, Iden, Rye TN31 7UT 01797 280180 /	07906 232225	MFC Outdoor Store 9 Station Road, Hailsham BN27 2BE 01323	846883
Knightingales Fishery Stone–In–Oxney, Near Tenterden TN30 7HA	07941 176205	Mud Pigs Unit 1, Browns Lane, Uckfield, T22 1UN 07494	785273
Mousehole Lakes , Maidstone Road Nettlestead, Near Paddock Wood ME18 5HR	07725 783405	Orchard Tackle 58 High Brooms Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9DB 07494	670328
Orchard Place Farm Fishery Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood TN12 6NY	01892 838576	Pinions Baits431 London Road, Ditton, Aylesford ME20 6DB01622	718580
Pittlands Lakes Churn Lane, Horsmonden, Paddock Wood TN12 8HL	07716 065900	Polegate Angling Centre Unit 7, Birch Industrial Estate, Eastbourne BN23 6PH 01323	486379
Sandwich Lakes Coarse Fishery Sandwich Ash Road (A257), Near Canterbury CT3 2DA	07936 409912	Romney Angling 59, High Street, New Romney TN28 8AH 01797	362889
Shirkoak Fishery Bethersden Road, Woodchurch, Ashford TN26 3PZ	07973 410973	Scotties Fishing Tackle 25 Southwick Square, Southwick, Brighton BN42 4FP 01273 5	592903
The Lakes at Beachborough Beachborough Park Newington, Near Folkestone CT18 8BW	07469 809877	South London Angling Centre 286 Lee High Road, London SE13 5PJ 0208 8	52 4451
Tricklebrook Fishery Colts Hill, Five Oak Green TN12 6SH	07743 955812	Sussex Bait Developments Falkenvil Fishery, Saltmarsh Lane, Hailsham BN27 2RJ 07971	303949
Willows Angling Centre Bax Farm, Lower Road, Teynham ME9 9BU	01795 520887	i	292400
Wylands Farm Wylands Farm, Powdermill Lane, Battle TN33 0SU	01424 893394		581784
Trout Fisheries		Angling Clubs & Societies	
Brick Farm Lakes Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux BN27 4RS	01323 832615	Hastings Bexhill & District Postal enquiries to S.Corke, 2, The Sidings, Bexhill On Sea TN40 1F	RF
Cinder Hill Fly Fishing Membership available from: Email: r.nathan@btinternet.com	01892 770903		
Coltsford Mill Trout Fishery & Fly Tackle Shop		Tonbridge & District A & FPS For all enquiries please email: info@tonbridge-anglin	ıg.co.uk
Spring Hill Trout Waters Albans Farm, Romford Road, Pembury TN2 4BB	07951 304515	Bromley (Kent) & District AS PO Box 895, East Grinstead RH19 9ND Email: bdas-kent-enquiry@bdaskent.co.uk	
Tenterden Trout Waters Coombe Farm, Chennell Park Roa TN30 6XA www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk		Linton Angling Society Jason Tuckey on 07983 569 email lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk	922 or
Lakedown Trout Fishery	1435 883449		505934



and more details



Pittlands Lakes Angling Club
Churn Lane
Horsmonden
TN12 8HL

PITTLANDS LAKES 07716 065900

At Pittlands Lakes we provide Day and Night Tickets to ALL

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

CARAVAN CLUB SITE THAT OFFERS MEMBERS CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME FACILITIES

Even if you're not fishing please come and sample our Sunday roasts and enjoy the beautiful lakeside views

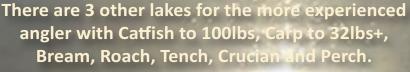


Our toilets are brick-built and open throughout the season, including disabled toilet and shower room.



Night fishing is very popular and is available every night of the week, with just 24hrs notice to secure a place, please call 07716 065900.

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













R&MTACKLE

CATCH THE IMPOSSIBLE

DARRELL PECK & NEIL SPOONER WILL BE IN-STORE ON THE 10am 13TH DECEMBER 4pm



www.rmtackle.co.uk

38-40 Avenue road, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA7 4EG 0203 5189611