JULY 2021

FRESHWATER 198



plus JUNIOR INFORMER pages 42-44, TROUT INFORMER pages 46-49, SEA INFORMER pages 50-57



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Hello and welcome to the July issue of the Freshwater Informer!

We are now entering in to the middle month of Summer and the second half of the year. After appearing to 'skip' Spring, June turned out to be a nice month weather wise, although very little rain was received in the early part. Spawning took place 'big style' throughout our region's fisheries, so let us hope that the fish have got it out of their systems and don't want a second go again this summer!

The rivers opened up again a couple of weeks ago and looked in fine condition for the 16th June, although a 'top up' wouldn't go amiss in some of the smaller waters. I know many of you are traditionalists and still maintain the Close Season even on still waters and I remember fondly the anticipation of the clock moving past midnight on the 16th to herald the big start! As a teenager a number of friends and I always used to visit what was Griffins Lake at Chartham, now a syndicate water I believe, for the start of the season. Initially, we used to travel by train from Ashford with all our gear on trollies, but in later years we had mopeds and made the journey packed with rucksacks and all manner of items somehow strapped to our bikes. These days I am sure our loading would result in driving licence points, fines, a training course and a spot of porridge if the judge was having a bad day! Like many Open Day anglers, our target was tench and Griffins used to hold a good head of them. Our baits were simple bread baits, either flake or paste, but they worked well fished either under a float alongside the reeds or on a running rig cast out in to open water. The top of mum's Fairy Liquid bottle doubled up as the bobbin! Great day's and nights! Even now, catching a tench always takes my mind back to those days in the 70s!

I am always seeking sponsors for our Junior Informer section of the magazine. The sponsors contributions help pay towards this section which otherwise receives none of the advertising revenue that the magazine relies on. I recently posted on the magazine's Facebook page asking for more sponsors. For the small amount of just £10 a month the sponsor, be it an angling related business or not, would have their logo displayed at the top of the Junior Informer page showing that they supported the 'next generation' of anglers. I am delighted to welcome Kevin Finch from the Angling and Anxiety group to the magazine as they have now become one of the 'family'! I still need support from further sponsors. I am passionate about our junior anglers and the Junior Informer was one of the first things I introduced in to the magazine when I became involved with the Freshwater Informer many years ago. If your company is able to help, please get in touch. Donations from individuals are also welcome. In this day and age, pages mean pounds so please step forward and help if you can!

In the May and June magazines and indeed in this issue, the prestigious centre pages position has featured local fisheries and tackle shops and has received a great deal of interest from readers and other angling businesses. I am offering this fantastic position in the magazine at just £250 per month. Initially, I was only going to do this for the summer months as we emerged from lockdown, but due to its popularity I will continue in to the Autumn/Winter if the demand is there. The next available month is October so if you are interested, don't delay and get in touch for a chat.

Enjoy your fishing, Barry Reed

The Freshwater Informer

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Fishery Reports

Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

Snipe Lake produced some cracking fish at the beginning of the month then the fish decided it was that time of the year for their nuptials to begin so we shut the lake for the fishes safety and once they had finished spawning we kept it shut for a few days so they could relax and recuperate. A few examples of fish banked before and after spawning are Simon Gore banking commons at 28-07 and 29-03, **John Champion** banked a 22-08 mirror and a common of 22-06, Chris Edland banked another common at 28-08, Ashley Cobbold banked a 27-08 mirror, Sam Langley caught the big grassie at 32-13, Tayla Brown banked a 17lb mirror then on her birthday weekend banked another mirror at 17-02 while partner Luke Auger banked a common of 28-10, Lee Amis banked his first Snipe Lake fish which was a 20lb common, George Whittworth banked a mirror of 27-08 and a common of 17-08, **Dan Munroe** kept his run going with a 17lb mirror, Gavin Bryant banked a common of 30-14, Steven Gallagher banked his first Snipe Lake fish which was also a common weighing in at 28-08. There have also been a few mid double stockies banked too.

Westlake has been prolific for most anglers on there and many have been seeing multiple catches to the point of having to reel in for a bit of rest. Here are only a few examples of the catches on there. Ted Gribben was back and banked cats at 38, 42, 54 and 61-04, **Andy Watson** banked 3x 20's, 3x 25's, a 31, 32, 36 and 49-05, Ross McDaniel banked 6 cats to 57-10 then his next session saw him bank 21 cats to 38-08, Kieron Middle saw his session result in cats at

31-06, 35-04 and 37-07, **Peter Ellis** banked cats to 51lb, Marek Gleba banked his first ever cat at 60lb and then had 2 more at 28 and 30lb, Chris Edland







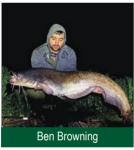






fished on Westlake as Snipe Lake was shut and banked an English PB cat at 30-08, Danny and Connor McDowell banked their first cats with Danny having 7 to 35-10 and Connor having 4 to 28-13, Ben Browning and Jack Roberts enjoyed their first visit to us by banking cats to 48lb, Connor Clarke also had his first ever cat at 23lb then a 21lber, Les Franklin had 4 to 36-04 and Martin Smith had a few out including beating his PB twice in a session when he banked a cat at 50lb and then one at 56-04.











Freddie Bunker

Jeffs Lake has been, as usual, the place to go for some small carp, bream and F1s. Most days, anglers on there have been rewarded with multiple catches. A very well done to young Freddie Bunker who caught his first ever carp alongside his dad and friend. They ended up catching 27 F1s and a mix of other species.

Moat Pond has seen day anglers getting amongst the fish. Here are a few examples. Kieron Jeffrey and George Roberts caught carp to 13lb, Paul Kelly banked 2 tench, 3 bream, 2 carp and his first ever ghostie, John Howe banked 7 carp to 8lb and 2 bream and Mark Jenkinson banked 5 carp to 9lb and 3 bream.

Daughters Lake has, like Snipe Lake, been shut as the fish were spawning on there but before they started



doing their thing a few anglers banked fish. Geoff Pieper banked 2 decent grassies at 25-03 and 28-02, Joe Hutchings banked a small common and a 17-06 grassie, Luke Sherman banked his first ever grassie at 18lb, Michael Turner banked 2 low double mirrors and Lawrence Force banked a mid double

mirror, a 20lb mirror and a 25lb grassie.

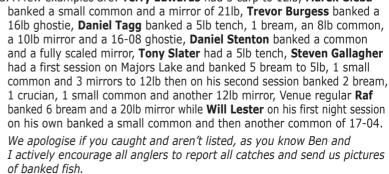
Eden Pond has been producing a few small carp but mainly tench to 4lb.

Maze Lake has seen a few day anglers on there getting amongst the fish with a mixed bag of fish banked, plenty of F1s, small carp and lots of bream to 5lb.

Majors Lake has, like Snipe and Daughters Lakes seen the carp having a spawn up so we shut half of the lake to let them get on with it. There have been some fish banked before they started spawning and after they had finished. A few examples are: Terry Edwards had 5 carp to 12lb, Marek Gleba









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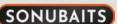
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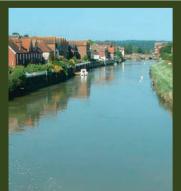












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Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hawkhurst, Kent

Specimen Lake We should start off with a big congratulations to our bailiff Sam, who managed to bank a new 40lbs+ common during a 12 hour night session at the start of this month and then during another session landed a whopping 14 carp up to 36lbs 8ozs, including a couple of his target fish. Aaron had a great session on swim 3, catching 8 carp up to 31lbs. Stephen caught the 'big common' from Specimen Lake, peg 1- weighing in at an impressive 42lbs 5ozs! He also had a 32lbs 13ozs Mirror and 23lbs 12ozs box Common, all during a 36 hour session. Steve caught 4 fish during a recent 60 hour session, including the blue carp which he said was in great condition and gave a great fight,





as well as the lovely 'black dot' ghosty at 27lbs 8ozs, a 25lbs 10ozs Common and a grass carp. Rob caught 2 x 30lb'ers during a night, weighing 32lbs 7ozs and 30lbs 12ozs. A huge well done to Ricky who said he had the carp fishing session of his dreams on Specimen Lake last week. Not only did Ricky land one of his target fish- Casper the ghost carp at 35lbs, he had a total of 9 carp out including 4 x 30lbs+. A big well done to Lewis who had another great session on Specimen Lake, landing a 33lbs Mirror, 27lbs zip linear and 23lbs



Stephen - 42lbs 5ozs

Common. Congratulations to Aaron for landing a new PB on Specimen Lake- a lovely mirror weighing in at



33lbs 12ozs! He also had a 24lbs 12ozs Common and 24lbs Common, as well as a 16lbs grass carp. A brilliant session on Specimen Lake last week resulted in 5 carp up to 32lbs 4ozs for John!

Main Lake Massive congratulations to Simon who caught a whopping 41lbs 10ozs Common from swim 7 during a 24 hour session - he was rewarded with a free 24-hour session! Kieran had a whopping 64lbs catfish during a 24-hour session. Harvey caught an awesome 23lbs 8ozs Common from Main Lake, swim 1 during a 24 hour session. Jake and the group from Sussex Socials fished Main Lake for a weekend and managed a number of carp from various swims! Sheldon and Tommy both managed PBs, Tommy landed a 26lbs common from swim 8 and Sheldon caught a 29lbs common from swim 12. Frankie fished peg 8 and managed a catfish weighing 52lbs and a couple of mid 20 carp during a 48-hour session





Dove Lake, Quarry, Four Trees Well done to Mark who caught a new PB common weighing 26lbs during a 48 hour session. Kevin also caught the same carp 3 weeks ago! A big well done to Paul who caught a new PB from Dove Lake, peg 8 during a 48 hour session. He started off with a







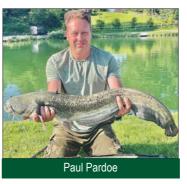


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Barden Lake Some excellent fishing for the carp anglers at present with several of the bigger fish being caught with plenty of other fish over the 30lbs barrier. A few big bream to double figures showing and tench to nearly 5lbs being caught.

The Old Ballast Pit Fishing is really good at present with lots of carp being caught to over 30lbs, including the Society's oldest known fish, 'Smalltail', which was caught by Laurence Gilbert at a healthy 25lbs 6ozs. Laurence also landed a 31lbs 6ozs mirror and another nice mirror in the high doubles. Jack Adams had a 23lbs 8ozs mirror, Owen Worsell had another nice mirror and venue bailiff Kristy had a decent mirror. Matt Mooney had a 19lbs mirror. Pete and Ben Groombridge enjoyed some bream fishing with some nice specimens. There was also some great clearance work done by our regular work party volunteers.

The New Lagoon The tench fishing continues to be good with fish to well over 6lbs. Bream also showing to over 5lbs and plenty of good silvers to over 1lb and small crucians to around 8ozs. Mark Roe and Tony had a nice session catching tench and bream. Shirley Coleman had a nice 4lbs tench. Duncan Battell also had some quality bream and tench plus small crucians. Paul Gore enjoyed some light tackle tactics for the tench.

Haysden Lake Clear water and bright sunshine has made fishing on here difficult, but some anglers have enjoyed some great perch fishing from the platforms with fish to over 1lb. A few bream and the odd tench still being caught.

Longfield Lake The recently stocked tench are beginning to show up now with fish to over 6lbs being reported. Bream to 7lbs also being caught along with a few small carp to 5lbs.

Pippins Farm Some nice roach, rudd and the odd small carp being caught. The better fish coming out on sweetcorn. Venue bailiff **Melissa Fordham** caught her first small carp from this pretty little lake.

Weirwood Reservoir Some fantastic silverfish bags being recorded to over 50lbs on float and leger tactics. Perch to over 2lbs being caught regularly on maggot under the float. Lots of bream and hybrids also being caught. **Jason Craven** had a lovely 1lb 10ozs roach.

River Medway Some good reports came in during the first week of the new season. Good roach to over 1lb being recorded along with the odd decent bream and double figure carp. Society bailiff **Kristy** had a nice 7lbs bream and clean looking roach at Hartlake. There were also 11 tench caught in one area of the river on the opening day which was a bit of a surprise as one angler had 6 of them. It's normally very rare for tench to be caught from this area behind Barden Lake. One was also caught in the match on the first Sunday of the season.





















Match report 18 members gathered at Haysden lake on Sunday for the inaugural competition of the new 2021/22 match season. The air was warm and still as the sun's rays pierced through the hazy mist to reflect off the clear waters of the lake. This had all the hallmarks of being a real grueller of a comp considering that it was the feeder only match counting towards the 'all-rounder' series. It was nice to see a few new faces among the cohort of usual suspects as proceedings got under way to draw pegs and proceed to chosen swims. The lake did not fail to hold on to its hidden bounty as the temperatures soared and enthusiasm waned, bites were non-existent as the overheating anglers tried every trick of their repertoire to illicit some interest to their offerings. Half of the field failed to trouble the scales at all and some of Tonbridge's finest match men struggled to make an impression on dial, that said **Steve Twort** and **Trevor Oldfield** managed to winkle out 1lb 7oz apiece of mixed silvers to take joint 3rd place. **Paul Reddy** put a mixed bag of roach, perch and a skimmer on the scales to take 2nd position with 1lb 10oz and Match captain **Martyn Hill** employed full use of his bizarre and somewhat bewildering worm associated wizardry to present 2lbs 7ozs of mainly perch to take honours on the day and also fish of the day with a fine 1lb 2oz perch. Not the best start to the coming season, but let's hope that things can only get better!





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Heron Heavily baited areas on the pole or with a feeder rod using maggots/corn/luncheon meat or paste is proving productive for a large mixed bags of fish. As Harrison Underdown and Alfie Parker found out with their dad watching over them and being their ghillie!



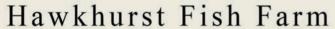




Specimen 1 Fishing over regularly baited areas of large particle is proving the better method in keeping the carp in the area. Solid pva bags casting to showing fish can also work well on this lake as they are on the move for feed now they have spawned. As Daniel Price and Phil Eustration found out on their recent visit to the lake.

Specimen 2 Carp are on the move after spawning and are being caught on solid pva bags using dumbell wafters of your choice. The catfish are showing to zig rigs or by using a catfish dumbbell rig up in the water during the day. Of a night time fishing for the cats on the bottom over a large bed of pellet is working very well. Phil Eustration on another visit also got in amongst the catfish and so did **Anthony** Hildige yet again.

Please use net dips on site which are located in the top car park next to Specimen 1 Lake and central car park that is next to Kingfisher Lake and en-route to Specimen 2 Lake. Thanks, Martin.



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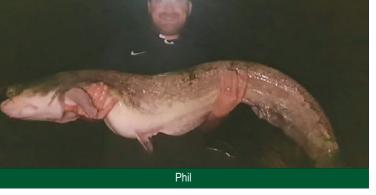


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Claygate Lakes Claygate, Marden, Kent

Lake Amy What a month for Matthew Goode! He has managed to catch 2 new unnamed 30's for himself, he has named them 'Mrs Brown' 30lbs 6ozs and 'June' 34lbs 9ozs. Matthew has also been hitting high 20's in his sessions, which hopefully next season should be 30's. Husband and wife Colin and Miranda lost a few but banked some including another unknown 31lbs 5ozs carp which they named 'Wilson', Miranda's new PB.







Lake Eva Matthew has been at it again with another 30lber from this

lake. He also managed to be the first person to catch the ghostie at 22lbs 8ozs and has named it 'Belle' after his daughter. Wayne popped in for a day session and went away with a new PB of 17lbs 6ozs. Nice one.





Matthew Good - 22lbs 8ozs Lake Eva



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LAKE AMY - Carp to upper 30s





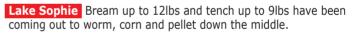
LAKE EVA match/pleasure - Carp 27lb+ Tench 11lb+ Chub 5lb+ Barbel 6lb+ Perch 5lb+ Bream and other silvers





LAKE SOPHIE match/pleasure - Carp 16lb+ Tench 8lb+ Chub 5lb+ Barbel 4lb+ Perch 3lb+ Bream 11lb+ Roach 2lb+ Skimmer Bream and other silvers

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MAN FREE AREA - A big thank you to Andy from Gurney and White Ltd, Dartford for supplying our chinaware and fittings for the new female loo and shower area which the ladies are loving.





Gabriels Fishery Edenbridge, Kent

What glorious weather to reopen the fishery and it's been so lovely to see everyone and catch up with old and new faces.

We've had some brilliant stories coming off the lakes, one being the lovely story of Kai and his Grandad, which you can read in the Junior Informer section of this magazine!

Another such story was **Eddy Smith** who caught this gorgeous 32lb 13oz common carp. He was just packing up ready to go home after his stay with us. He had been watching big fish swimming around all day, but not had any luck. Finally, he managed to catch this common carp in





the margins with the remains of his wholemeal brown bread and prawn sandwich! What an exciting end to his visit with us.

The river reopened on 16th June and the team here at Gabriels Fishery have been working hard at to be ready. It looks very inviting, and we are ready to welcome you in to our bait and tackle shop which opens at 7am every day of the week.



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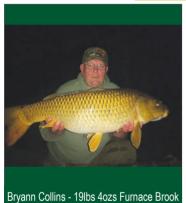


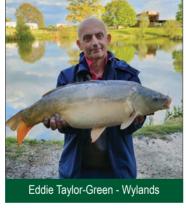
Gripz Fishing Hooks

After extensive research, where the limitations of both barbed and barbless were scrutinised, there has been an obvious need for improvement thus resulting in this radical design that crosses the boundaries between what we have had and what we now have. Made from high grade Japanese wire, the key improvement has been the introduction of a series of minute horizontal grooves on the inside of the specially designed arrow shaped hook point, where historically the barb would have been. These grooves allow the hook to hold securely in the fish's mouth when pressure is applied, as the flesh presses into the grooves resulting in a firm hook hold with no slippage. What are you waiting for? Grab your rods and head down to your favourite water and remember to take your phone or camera!



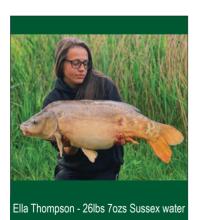
The winner of the PALLATRAX GRIPZ Hooks Set for JUNE is... **BRIAN LUCAS** well done!

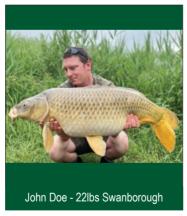




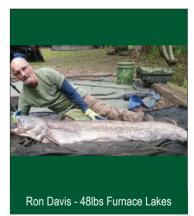












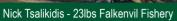














Ian Inglis - 17lbs Coombewood Fishery



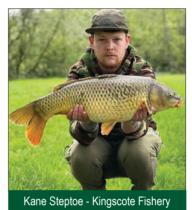
Gary Case - Allhallows Park



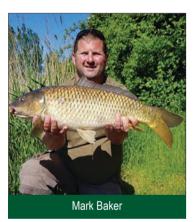
Joe Benson - 32lbs 9ozs Elphicks

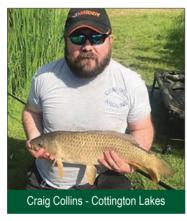


John Crosskey

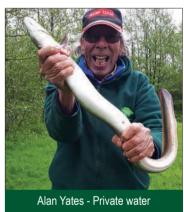


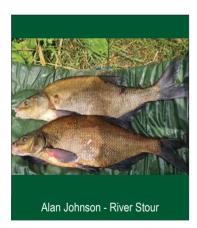


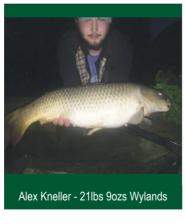


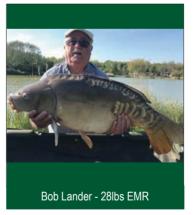


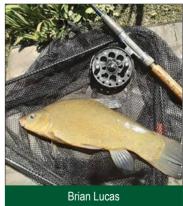










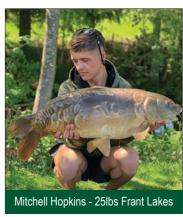




Dean Morris - 19lbs 6ozs members lake

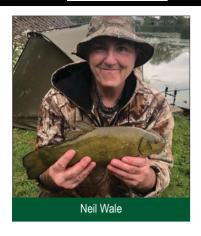


Matt Mooney - 18lbs Tonbridge club water



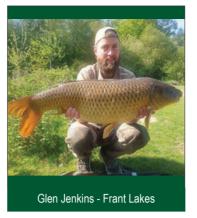
YOUR CATCH REPORTS



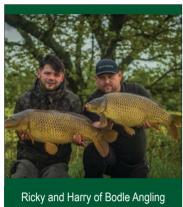


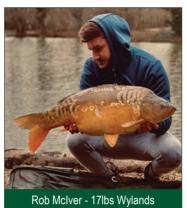


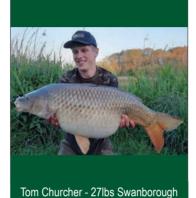
Chris Smith - 40lbs Mousehole Lakes

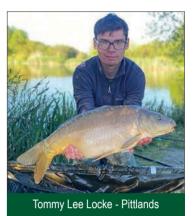












Well done Jack Wood!

Jack Wood seems to have found the Co-de to catching big carp and sent in this report: "I'm absolutely buzzing!! After a long campaign of blanks, I've landed the one and only 'Big Scaley', a fish of over 50 years of age and one I've wanted in my album for a long time from a local silty estate lake. I started my campaign last season and struggled to get into a fish and this water has certainly put me to the test of what I'm capable of doing and after starting my second season I've landed her on my second session and at her biggest ever weight and current lake record of 39lbs 14 ozs! It was caught on the new CO-DE from Nutrabaits and honestly if you haven't tried it already you must!! This is my 3rd 30 on the Co-de this year! This amazing carp is by far my best ever capture and will probably be the best carp I'll ever catch. Buzzing is an understatement and it's been such a privilege that I've been lucky enough to fish for this Gem and as respect for my fellow anglers I will be keeping the lake a secret! A massive thank you to my Dad for the amazing photos and getting up at 4am to come and help me, and of course massive thank you to Nutrabaits for keeping me topped up with top quality bait all year round!" Regards, Jack.



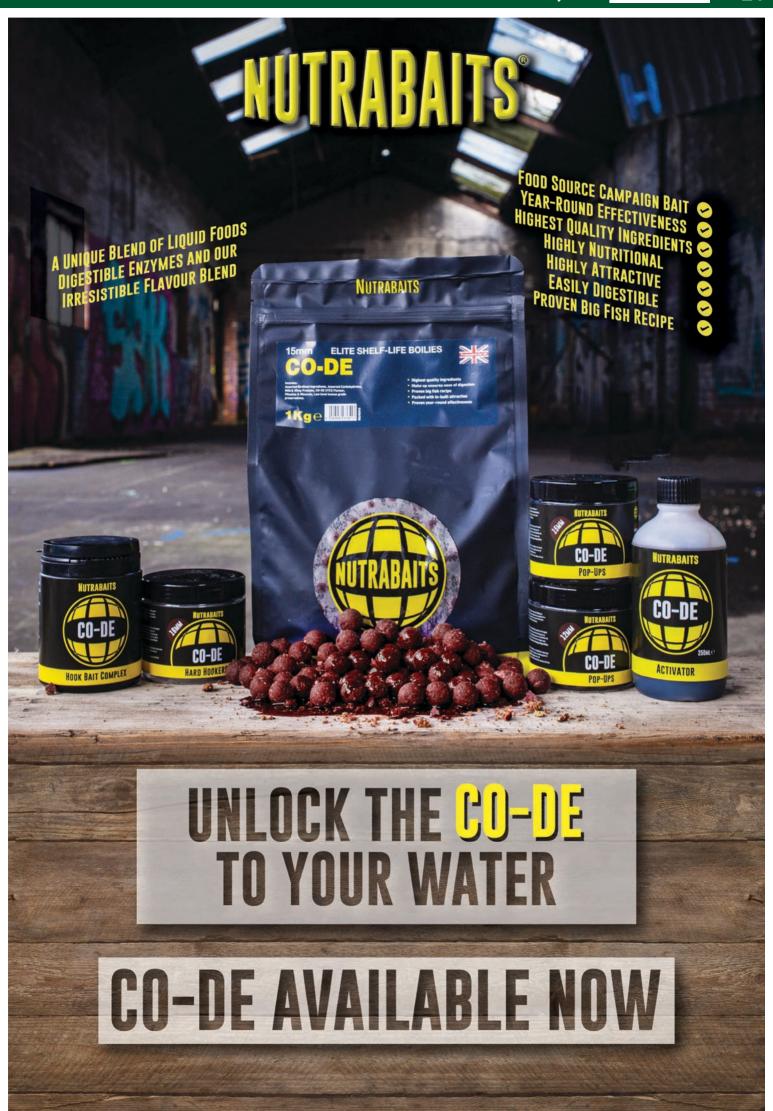








FRESHWATER



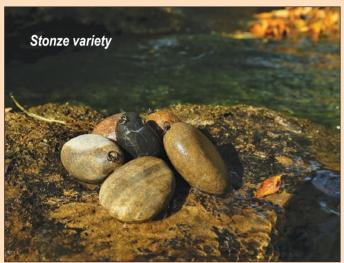
Welcome to the Stonze Age!

'm sure that if you have read my features you will frequently see me mentioning the 'Stonze System' and that it is a major, and very successful, part of my angling arsenal. Chatting with Barry, we thought it would be a good idea to expand on the tactic's development and why it is so very effective. Hand on heart, it has revolutionised my, and now thousands of other anglers, way of fishing and without doubt provides a unique approach that can certainly catch you more fish time after time



for the majority of targeted species e.g. Carp, Barbel, Tench, Bream, Chub, Pike etc.

So where did it start? Over 20 years ago, when I bought my first fishery, one of the common denominators within Carp

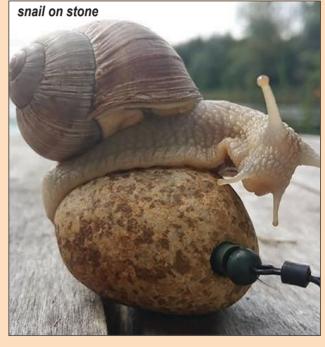


fishing was that anglers didn't have the same consistent approach as the successful match angler. On my rig checks, the terminal tackle set ups were all over the place: long rigs, short rigs, small leads, big leads, different baits, different hook link materials, I think you get my drift! This is the exact opposite to how the effective, and consistently successful, match angler will fish – they will focus on refined, scaled down and proven tactics and adapt on the day, especially to what swim they are fishing and what bait they would choose.

Another area I became attuned to was how wary pressured fish could become and that,

unlike match fishing, the terminal tackle within much of the modern specimen scene is obtrusive and cumbersome. Unfortunately, man-made camouflage makes zero difference to how a fish, through their incredible senses within their own ecology, can identify something as not a part of their environment and, therefore, can equate it to danger. Painting a lead green and expecting a fish not to see it is totally the wrong way of viewing things, as what you see is not what they can sense!

So enters the development of Stonze. The most conspicuous component of your terminal tackle is the weight, unfortunately also made from a known toxin i.e. lead, which harms the environment in which we fish, so how do I get rid of that, especially as I also love fishing the method, and the modern method feeder looks something like a mini space ship off Star Wars?! By definition, a fishing weight is just something that has the ability to cast and hold your bait in place.



Nowhere does it mention that it needs to be made of lead, and using a natural pebble not only makes total sense but also has a multitude of benefits that no lead can ever have e.g. fish don't spook off of them, they can hold the method, they can be flavoured, there's a variety of natural colours and shapes for all occasions, and they are also non-toxic. In reality, removing the man-made lead/feeder and converting to Stonze equates to an acknowledged angling advantage against the opposite of a lead, with all of their proven disadvantages!

Once I started using Stonze, the improvement to my catch rate was startling. Not just mine, but several others who were also testing them in those formative times. I then started questioning my rigs. Why were rigs so long, which could compromise bite detection, give poor presentation and also become easily tangled? The simple answer from the brand leaders is to try and get the bait away from the man-made lead (so the industry was admitting the lead was an issue, hence why they attempt to camouflage!). By using a natural Stonze, I could shorten my rig, as did I really care if my bait just sat near another pebble on the bed of the water I was fishing? No! This added to the proven benefits of using natural over man-





made. Combined, it was that light bulb moment when things massively changed to the way I now fish and, with no arrogance, why my catch rate has increased – it really does make so much common sense and, by focusing on the facts and staying clear of assumptions, it is a vast improvement on how I used to fish

Stonze and method - before and after

We can also easily manipulate the Stonze System to whatever species you are fishing for. A great example is that the tactic caught the previous UK Barbel record fish several times - again showing us that this tactical approach is far more than just for Carp. Personally, I have had caught thousands of Carp to over 50lb, plenty of double figure Barbel and rakes of large Tench to just shy of 10lb!! Last, but not least, is the use of a good quality Method Mix. Wrapping such around my Stonze ensures that I have a great food source slowly disintegrating next to my hook bait and when it does break down, all I have is a Stonze next to the bait, instead of the obtrusive monstrosity of what is now the modern Method Feeder!





This approach goes against the grain of much of what is promoted, even classed as a disruptor by some. However, for me it is all about proven results, and the amount of fish caught around the world by those anglers who have embraced the Stonze System is astonishing, though somewhat expected. A Revolution merely means a change of mindset and, with no hidden agenda, I promise you that this tactic can consistently catch you so many more fish!"

Till next time, stay safe and catch more, and if you have any questions please always feel free to contact me - simon@pallatrax.co.uk

Simon 'Pom' Pomeroy



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Night Fishing 24 hours: Adult £25 with loyalty card £20 / Junior as for Day Tickets



Night fishing: Only by prior booking.

Note: Juniors up to 13 years to be with an adult - FOC



Contact Wantsum Angling Association on 01227 678063 or visit us at



www.wantsumaa.co.uk

We can also be contacted via the Contact Us message service on the website

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Letter to the editor

Regular correspondent Robin Piper wrote in with this report:.

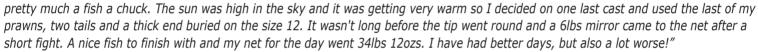
"Dear Barry, Just a few bits on my fishing agenda of late! With all the recent low pressure in late May, I was not all that keen to venture out too far in it. Heavy showers came and went before a nice band of high pressure was on the horizon. It was then time to get the tackle out once again.

I decided to visit Claygate Lakes to fish on Lake Sophie. When I arrived there were plenty of swims and only a few anglers on their poles. Just for a change I put out the waggler rod to fish bread just off the bottom. There were a few fish showing on the top

before the float shot under. It felt like a good fish and the water started to cloud up. For a while I couldn't see my float but after a few steady pumps a nice plump common was soon in my net and the scales read 5lbs 11ozs. After all that excitement I then sat for the next three and a half hours without a bite!

I then weighed up whether to stay or pack up. I had one of those feelings and the sun had just come out so I decided to make a move to Lake Eva. Out went the Pallatrax half ounce Stonze with a size 12 barbless hook on the 10' leger rod. I was then set for another session. I fed some pieces of luncheon meat and chopped prawns and baited with a whole prawn on the hook. In the next hour I had two quick snatches that I failed to connect with so I tried my old favourite, bread, on the bottom. The rest of the day produced a good bag of fish with half a dozen tench to go with the common carp which formed the main part of my net.

The fish were now feeding well and there was no need for further freebies as it was



Regards, Robin Piper



A great day on the bank for Roger and Paul!

Paul Cooper, a morning regular on the magazine's Facebook page, sent in this report:

"Hi Barry, I went fishing recently for the first time since last August. It was pretty slow. I don't think the weather and the fact they have just spawned



helped. I took an older guy I have known for years called Roger Challis. He has health issues and doesn't drive either. He also hasn't been since the start of April. Roger lives very close to Brooklands and walks there. He's a local legend and fishes very 'old school'. A soft 2lbs TC 11' rod of some age, a centrepin and a hook. Apart from that he uses just a small home made captive bobbin and only ever uses Kingsmill bread, that's it. Nothing else. Such simplicity!

We only caught small fish, but we were just like kids in a sweetshop, full of enthusiasm for every size and treating them with equal respect. He has caught two thirties and lots of twenties from Brooklands previously, but today he caught this little one and was so happy! When my missus picked us up she said to me, without prompting, that he has had a lovely day, she could see it on his face. We were at DDAPS Sutton at Hone. It's the best day's fishing I have had in years, even though the fishing was hard. It reminded me of what's important." Regards, Paul





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Wylands have had to put provisions in place to ensure the safety of the staff and anglers on site. Therefore, we are limiting the amount of anglers on our complex at any one time and ask all anglers to pre-book in advance via our online booking system www.wylands.co.uk



Field Lake Very popular with new and young anglers catching multiple carp on a variety of methods.

Snake lake Our river styled lake has seen a few match anglers producing good bag weights as well as the day ticket angler catching a good stamp of carp.

Rosies Lake With water levels low and temperatures still hot the fishing has been slow for some, but we have had reports of carp and crucians being landed.

House lake House has been a very busy lake this month with it being close to all amenities. The lake itself has fished very well with lots of carp being caught on bollies and the fly.

Middle Lake Another popular lake with 20lb plus carp being seen on the bank.

Kell Lake Kell has been giving up some of its prize possessions

a 38lb common being banked, multiple other carp have also been

reported from mid 20lb to 31lb.

over the last month with

Old Speci Has fished very well with reports of carp being caught up into the 20lb.

Middle Lake

Massive thanks to the lads for helping to keep Wylands clean

New Speci A very popular lake and has fished very well with high 20lb common and mirror carp being caught and a fantastic 33lb

Maisies Lake Has been very popular with the cat anglers with reports of high 40lb and 50lb cats being caught along with multiple carp of 20lb plus and a report of a 38lb common carp being banked however the hunt for the big mirror continues.







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Langley's Lake A 3-acre specimen carp lake with hard fighting fish up to 30lbs. We

nly allow a maximum of 8 anglers at time on to this water which has a variety of features to fish to. Langley's is the largest lake at the venue and there are a number of additional fishery rules in place on this water. The average depth is around 5'. Get your tactics right and you can expect a great session!

£15 / 12 hours - £30 / 24 hours No concessions

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The Stream

width of 30', this canalised section of water offers anglers the opportunity

to fish with a pole or rod for a variety of fish including crucians, roach, rudd, bream, perch and tench. A very popular water for those who enjoy a more traditional style of fishing. The average depth is 4' and there are 60 pegs available.

£10 / 12 hours - £20 / 24 hours Concessions available. Match bookings available.

The Pan Lake

roach, tench, barbel and perch. With an average depth of 5' and lots of features, this pretty water offers all analers a areat day out.

£10 / 12 hours - £20 / 24 hours No concessions.

An average depth of 4' with lots of features, this lovely water is well stocked with carp, bream, roach

perch and F1s. This water is a popular choice for families, young anglers and beginners and is close to the well presented on-site facilities.

£10 / 12 hours - £20 / 24 hours Concessions available.

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TACKLE WAREHOUSE

FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS OUR TACKLE WAREHOUSE WAS BORN

The tackle shop started as a mere couple of shelves in the office of our holiday park, it catered for the needs of a few of our fishing holiday makers and the occasional day ticket fisherman who may have run out of hooks or a bit of bait.

In 2010 we decided to make it into a shop of it's own and we opened The Bait Bucket! It was about 2 metres wide and about 6 metres long and we thought it was great! We attracted a lot of regular custom and found that our holiday makers loved having the extra choice of baits and end tackle, so a couple of years later we expanded once again.

BAIT BUCKET No.1 - 2010







We upgraded our park office unit in 2013 and had it incorporate an area for a 'proper sized' tackle shop. This area was about 500 square foot and stocked masses more than our humble beginnings.

BAIT BUCKET No.2 - 2013







But something told us it just wasn't enough and that our local area was missing a 'Destination' store! So, in 2016 we took on a rundown warehouse building, gave it a facelift and opened the doors to The Bait Bucket Tackle Warehouse, a 3,500 square foot fishermans' paradise....





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Top angling from Chris Smith

After a tough 48 hours on Prairie Lake at Elphicks Fishery near Goudhurst, Chris managed three fish, all off the top, a 23lbs 4ozs common, a 25lbs 2ozs common and a 30lbs 2ozs mirror. **Well done Chris!**







Ron keeps smiling!



Ron Davis had a session at Stubponds Fishery recently chasing carp and catfish.

He sent in this photo to say that all is going to plan ...!!!



We are a commercial day ticket fishery and have 2 Specimen Lakes, 3 Coarse Lakes and 3 Ponds.

Open 7am - 7pm Summer time and 7am - 6pm Winter time. Day ticket, overnight and long stays welcome.

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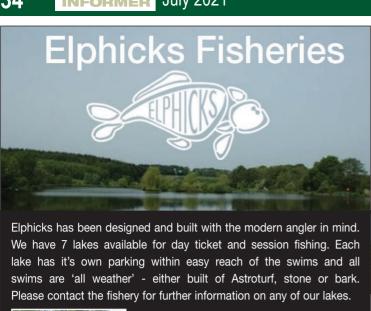
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Admiral lake (specimen lake)- stocked to 45lb.

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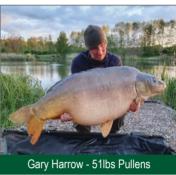
Family campsite with easy access to many local attractions Night fishing by appointment Access for disabled anglers

Elphicks Fisheries Horsmonden, Kent



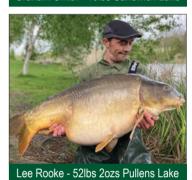






















Tel/Fax: Andy Ashdown

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

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Happy anglers at Mousehole Lakes!

Mousehole Lakes received this great review from David Leftley who recently visited this much loved Kent fishery.

Mousehole Lakes said: "Thank you to David Leftley for your review and kind words and we hope to see you again soon!"

David's review of Mousehole Lakes read: "Having just returned from my first 72 hours session on Kingfisher lakes, I was left completely gob smacked as to how nice the place is, how clean and tidy, how well cared for and how well it is run.

Dave, Jo and Rod really can't do enough to help you. Everything was spot on that I can't put into words. The breakfast delivered to the swim was amazing and all the facilities were so clean and tidy, you would have thought you were in a 5 star hotel and not at the lakes.

In my opinion this has to be one of the top day ticket lakes in the South of England (and I have been to most of them!). Without a doubt both my father and I will be returning. I can't recommend Mousehole Lakes enough. Get down there for yourself and try it out. Thank you guys you were all amazing!"

Mousehole Lakes can be contacted on 07725 783405.

If you have enjoyed a visit to one of our region's fisheries, please let us know!





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IF SELLING. PLEASE PHONE BEFORE VISITING

News from Knightingales Fishery at Stone

'Percy the Pike' has bit the dust after over 20 years of residence at Knightingales. He or she has shocked several anglers over the years that didn't know a pike was in there and he was the only one. Jim Knight, Knightingales owner added: "The fish was 14 pounds last time it was weighed I believe. Age wise, I have a photo of it at a pound and a half when it went in, I'm pretty sure, in 2003 or 4, so it probably peaked at about 19lbs. It must have had an easy living to get to that age!"



Great Swanborough result for John!

John Doe had these lovely fish from Swanborough Lakes on a recent visit. The fully scaled weighed 21lbs and the commons were 21lbs and 22lbs.

Well done John!











A tale of spawning!

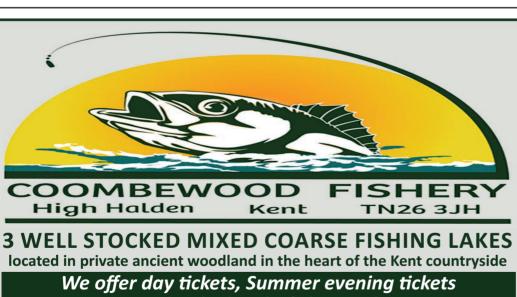
Daniel Terry sent in this report after a session was cut short due to Nature: "I had a decent 48 hours on a local Kent lake from Thursday night to Saturday with my friend Jason Blackman. It started off lively on the first night! After picking and baiting our swims, we were straight into bites with a few missed fishing tight to lilies. I had a common, then a nice double ghostie. I was woken around 3am by Jason with a nice double mirror. Things went a tad quiet after that when the sun came up.

After having no morning action, we decided to move swims into the sun. I had a nice healthy common which ran me about a bit as it was a very solid, strong fish. We could hear a lot of splashing starting to happen and knew spawning was well overdue. After



having another nice ghostie it went very silent for the whole night and by morning the thrashing started in earnest and they were seriously spawning which cut our success short, but, we can't complain as we got a few, just in time really. I am glad the weather has taken a change for the better and I can't wait to get back out after they done their business! Stay safe people! Tight lines, Daniel





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The Golden Years of Coarse Fishing by Bob Rolph



The joys of a garden pond - every angler should have one!

was into fish and fish-keeping long before I actually took up fishing, so it was not surprising that I started angling in 1957, despite there being no history of it in my family.

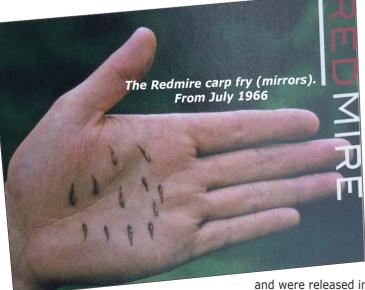
My Father and I built our first fish pond in our garden in Hayes when I was 9 years old, quite a large affair with bridges, waterfalls and bays. Dad was a great amateur builder and loved anything made of brick and concrete. Long before my time and during the war, he laid long brick paths, patios, rose arbours with ornamental brickwork and culminated in his construction of a very large underground concrete air raid shelter, which was evidently used a lot by my Mother when Dad was away at sea and I later used it as a workshop and den during the 1950s. Our milk was always stored down there in the cool long before we had a fridge!

We were always having huge deliveries of sand and ballast, tipped from the back of the local builders merchant's lorry onto our neat unused front drive. No car and no one tonne 'Jewsons' bags in those days! One of the first skills I

learned was how to mix good concrete to a favourite formula of my Dad's. So a 'huge' pond of over 2000 gallons was designed on the back of a fag packet and we went to work on digging it out and working the shape in to a natural hollow in the back garden.

In those days, there was no such thing as 'Butyl' rubber or Firestone 1 mm black pond liners in all the sizes, or even PVC, so everything was built by hand with a 3 inch thick layer of concrete incorporating a so called waterproofing agent which was supposed to make the hardened pond sides watertight. It never worked of course and the pond always leaked like a sieve. The remedy in those days was to paint on a green waterproofing paint, but this soon peeled off and we were back to square one! The old grey rubber garden hose was always handy to keep the water level topped up. Luckily for my Father there were no water meters in those days!





This first pond, one of 6 that I have built at various houses over

the years, was very badly sited under a huge copper beech tree, which grew so large it shielded the pond of sunlight for most of the day and shed all its leaves in autumn, all into the pond! So many mistakes were made all those years ago, including the depth, which was far too shallow, with no filtration or much running water, just an old fashioned pump of dubious origin, which was always breaking down!

The brick arched bridge that we made was however a great success, but the golden orfe and shubunkins loved to hide beneath this bridge, and rarely came out for food, so we never saw them much. A waterfall was later added to increase the oxygen levels, but this first pond effort 65 years ago now was not a great success and I learned from our mistakes!

This first pond's most famous residents were 20 baby Redmire mirror carp fry, saved from certain death by Ron Blackmore and myself in July 1966, when they were being washed over the dam outfall in a massive storm one night. They grew on to become 8 inch beauties

massive storm one night. They grew on to become 8 inch beauties and were released into Keston Ponds two years later, when they outgrew my family pond in

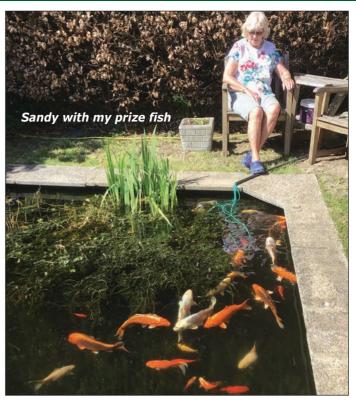
Hayes. This event has been well documented in the carp fishing books of Chris Ball and in 'Redmire' edited by Tony Meers and published by the Harper Press in 2019, with photos of the fry on the palm of my hand! Ken Rowley, Steve Edwards and Thomas Lochrane think that large mirrors caught by them many years later could well be these 'Leney' strain fish grown on in the lower pond from this stocking in 1968. Twenty five years ago at the age of 50, I was made redundant from the printing industry, so I turned my hobby into a thriving small business called Kent Garden Ponds, where I built and serviced garden ponds both large and small, old and new. My years of experience held me in good stead and I built over 100 ponds and had service contracts for many more. Had I started this venture earlier in life I could have made a fortune and had a fleet of vans, but I was only a one man business and couldn't keep up with the demand!

Fishing, my hobby for the previous three decades, had to take a backseat, both my carp fishing and trout fishing suffered, but I was in my element dealing with fish and associated hardware every day, which I loved!

Most that I have previously written about my angling memories are from the 1960s and 70s, when I knew and fished with many of the top anglers of the day. I've tried recently to get back my enthusiasm to go fishing regularly again, but sadly the vast changes to the sport nowadays are not much to my liking and I just visit my local wild carp lake occasionally on a warm summer morning or evening. My health is not great at the moment and fishing tickets are so expensive and I wish that the 'free' Keston Ponds were not 55 miles away from me now, whereas in my youth it used to be only a 2 miles cycle ride!

The expensive carp syndicate lakes in the Stour Valley where I live now may hold carp to 55 lbs, but they have to be enclosed in mesh fencing and padlocked gates because of the otters, mink and coypu and potential poachers! I don't want to fish in a 'prison enclosure', even if I could afford the fees! I'm afraid I don't approve of much of what modern life throws at us these days, I've become a right 'Victor Meldrew'! The days of Mr Crabtree and Bernard Venables are long gone, but I do still fish on one lake where I always feel that he could make a supernatural appearance, the carp only go to 17 lbs, but the estate is up for sale if you have a spare £15 million. Chilham Castle, if you are interested, one mile from my home! I just can't win! Light float tackle makes interesting fishing and they go like trains!

Bob Rolph



....Bob will continue his Garden Pond story next month!



Great start to the new season for James!

James Clifton enjoyed the start of the season on the River Beult and had chub to 4lbs 6ozs, some bream and perch. WELL DONE James!







t has been great to get out on the river again during the past couple of weeks and although the results have been mixed so far, the atmosphere and sense of anticipation have made up for it along with a generous helping of close range encounters and sightings of the various wildlife.



Fallow Deer

Watching fallow deer drinking and even swimming across the river on occasions has been a total delight and often I have been able to get into a position where they appear to be unaware, or perhaps unconcerned, by my presence. On my first evening trip I was sitting quietly awaiting action just after dusk when a tawny owl swooped down low and across the river in front of me. It passed so close overhead that I felt the draught on my face! It settled in the tree just behind me and remained there for a few minutes until I moved suddenly to grab the rod and bend into my

first decent chub of the new season - Magic. I have not got much to report on my river activities as I have only been out a few times, but to say that I am looking forward to a few more trips shortly would be an understatement!

Meanwhile on the tench front, I have been putting the 'Jumbo Feeders' that I featured last time through their paces with some interesting results. As I said, the main advantage of these buoyant feeders is when fishing in weedy conditions and I have been experiencing some of these, albeit rather later than usual due to the cold weather and late spring. The idea was to load the tube with groundbait and a heavy stone to hold it down until a take occurred. Well, on two of the lakes that I have been fishing recently takes did occur. The only thing was that I kept missing them! As they were of the sharp 'snatch' variety and I

started to suspect that they were not tench but possibly eels or even roach. I changed from the small boilies that I was using to corn and went down a couple of hook sizes to a barbless 10 and immediately had some success. I was still missing quite a few bites though and decided to try another



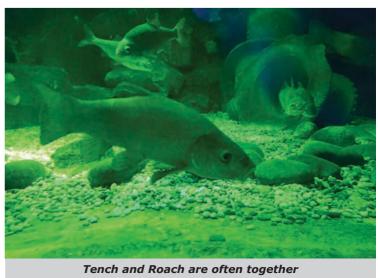
Good to be back on the river

Hitting the snatches was proving difficult so I wound down hard on the feeder and just waited to see what would happen. The roach started hooking themselves and I went from a rate of 20% connections up to 60% and ended up having a good evening with 10 decent fish all taken between 8 and 9pm. Best one was about 1 1/2 lb and although the target species had been tench, I felt that it had been a good result and that I had also learned something interesting which I hoped to repeat. I did soon repeat it on the second water, although the roach were not quite so big but I did get a tench or two just to make up for it. The most pleasing thing perhaps was that the jumbo feeder worked well in the weedy conditions - which, of course, was the main reason for the experiment.

On a different subject, I meant to say last time that I had been having a bit of 'digital frustration' on the IT front. It is a bit of an 'own goal' really, to use current terminology. Due to my website hosts changing their system a while ago, I was unable to access my site and update the info. Part of this was me just being lazy, but also, I am not a great expert on these matters, to put it mildly, and I was still getting a reasonable response from the old site and so let it go on. Old info and prices however eventually become a pain and an embarrassment and I decided to employ my daughter's help to make some changes. As, much of the site including the ordering page, was not really being used frequently by customers, we decided to close the old site and start again with a very simple few pages. This seemed to work okay and after a few teething problems with the old site initially persisting and still being available on some search engines/directories, and we tested it to our satisfaction to make sure that it was connected and working - which it seemed to be.



Decent Chub







Bob has been building rods for a long time

Unfortunately, the number of enquiries and emails that I then received was drastically reduced, even though the address bobmorriscustomrods.co.uk remained the same and featured on the most popular search engines etc. We came to the conclusion that many of the emails that I had previously received were from customers or previous enquirers who had been accessing my site from saved (cached) info on their PC/laptops etc. For this reason I would now like to ask anyone who is - or has had trouble contacting me via my website to please clear your cache or go to it from a search engine - such as google.

I am still getting enquiries and making rods, but I do now consider myself to be semi-retired and find that I have quite a lot of things to occupy my time these days - including fishing. I must admit that I did think, initially, that when this problem happened with the website that it might be time to call it a day on the rod building front, but then I thought, I have been doing it ever since I was in my mid teens and I quite like it really....!

> Best Fishes + Occupations Bob Morris



Piscatorial Politics

I signed a petition online a couple of weeks back. It was from the Angling Trust and urged government to give more support/funding to organisations such as the EA who are in the frontline in the fight against the desecration of

our waterways and environment generally.

There is no dispute that many land owners/farmers, water companies, councils, industry and others are getting away with murder when it comes to illegal levels of pollutants and chemical discharges on a national scale. The truth is that without sufficient funding for the crucial task of investigation it is impossible to bring these culprits to court and many of them will rely on and take advantage of this situation. When it comes to funding of these issues it is nothing short of a national tragedy that the monies received from fishing licenses, boating and other sporting fees are not fully used in this field but hived off into the government's coffers - albeit that the same is true for many of the taxes that we pay!

I have heard Boris Johnson talking of 'building back greener' after the pandemic. This is, of course, a great idea, but part of this plan should certainly be to make sure that departments, agencies and organisations charged with the job of investigating acts of vandalism/ pollution and neglect against our environment (from whichever direction they come) are sufficiently funded to carry out this vital work.

Please support the Angling Trust on this campaign.

Bob Morris



Junior Informer



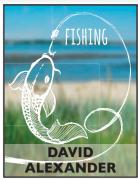












Thanks also to the many magazine subscribers for their kind donations!

Hello and welcome to the July edition of the Junior Informer!

Here we are in deepest Summer and the weather so far has been pretty good. Some of the days have been a little too warm to sit outside, even on the banks and beaches! Very often, if you are able to, the first couple of hours of daybreak and the last couple of hours of daylight are the best times to fish as the fish can be at their most active. Simple tactics such as float fished corn or bread or feeder fishing can be productive, but be careful with the amount of loose feed that you introduce at the start of your session. Once it goes in, you can't take it out! Lots of uneaten food laying on the bottom of the lake soon begins to rot and this is not good for the water quality and at this time of year oxygen levels are very important. Very often a simple handful of corn to begin with is sufficient, and if the fish are feeding well then you can introduce more as necessary. I can't stress enough that the margins can be the most productive spots on the lake so don't ignore them!

The support of our sponsors listed above makes the Junior Informer possible. If you would like to become a Junior Informer sponsor please do get in touch! Having your logo displayed at the top of the page for a year shows everyone that your business supports and encourages junior anglers! Please email, call or send a message to the Facebook page. Contact details are at the bottom of the inside front cover. Thank you.

REHOMING RODS SUPPORTING KIDS INTO RESPONSIBLE SEA FISHING

Rehoming rods - A project helping to support the next generation into fishing!

Jason Scott Aka (The Eastbourne Fisherman) sent me these details of a successful project he has been running for a while.

"I have always said from the start of my fishing and YouTube venture, I want to do things that will make a positive change to our amazing sea fishing community. One thing that struck me was the amount of fishing gear I could find at local boot fairs and recycling plants or just generally people giving fishing items away. Surely these items could go to better use rather than that? So 'Rehoming Rods' was born! I originally started on my Facebook group UK & IRELAND SEA ANGLERS (THE EASTBOURNE FISHERMAN) to help local kids in the Eastbourne and surrounding areas.

We initially asked our Facebook group members if they had any old fishing items they would like to donate then we could rehome them with local kids to get the next generation fishing. It has been a huge success with us being able to donate rods, reels and tackle to kids to get them on the beach and away from computers and potential trouble on the streets due to boredom. My group has been fantastic and I want to thank every member including group admins and also other Youtubers who have

got behind the campaign and who have donated items and money to us to be able to do the amazing things we have done, getting fishing gear to families from all walks of life some that potentially cannot afford the initial outlay and it has been highly rewarding to see the youngsters catch fish. It is amazing to know that we have made a difference! Also huge thanks to the following tackle shops who have donated items: Tony's Tackle, Anglers Den (Pevensey Bay), Tools in Tackle, Channel Angling, Lizard Bait & Tackle and also Newhaven Deep Sea Anglers. Rehoming rods has now expanded and we have added two further groups to be able to cover a wider area. Mike Pringuer of Facebook group Sussex Sea Fishing is covering the Brighton and Hove Areas and Wayne Morgan (Youtuber Angling Addict 75) and owner of Facebook group Angling Addicts (the reel UK outcasts) is covering Portsmouth and Southampton areas. I want to thank them both for the amazing jobs they have done covering their areas and helping more kids to fish. Going forward we would like to put it out there that if anyone has any items they wish to donate or any tackle shops who have excess stock that could be helpful for us to make rigs or anything at all, please get in contact with us via Facebook or via email Jasonscott@europe.com

We are also keen to speak to companies that would be interested in joining us to help get items of fishing gear to these kids too, eg simple things like rigs or weights etc. Huge thanks for reading and we hope we can help more kids happy and spread the word. We are very happy to accept freshwater fishing items as well as sea fishing tackle as many young people are interested in both types of fishing. Mike Pringuer says: "The re-homing project has been great fun to be a part of, not only getting fishing gear out to kids so they have something more to do, but when they also start posting catch reports throughout the groups. I was involved in a small project that included fishing as a child so it's been great to give back.

Sussex Sea Fishing Wayne Morgan says: "When I started out fishing I didn't have anything that was new, I had everything secondhand and that's what I learned with, some of the stuff I still have 40 years later! Even when I got into sea fishing, my first bass at 5.8lb was caught on inherited gear from my father in law! Being out doors next to the sea for brilliant sunrises and amazing sunsets is better than any game, Xbox or playstation could ever come up with. My goal is to encourage the younger generation to get out and see what's there. I have seen so many amazing things while out fishing and I would like the younger generation to experience the same. Not everyone can afford to get the best gear and all the kit that goes with sea fishing or any fishing for that matter! This is why I have decided to team up with the Eastbourne fisherman and a few other avid anglers on the "re-homing rods" project. Donations that I have received from the angling community are tremendous. Since I have joined the project tackle shops in my area including Lock, Stock and Tackle in Portsmouth and Cosham Angling have donated massive amounts of kit! Up to now and through very generous donations, the Portsmouth chapter of the 'Re-homing Rods' project has re-housed 2 full, pre-loved fishing kits, including rod, reel and terminal tackle to get the younger generation off to a good start in their

Collectively between the 3 groups we have given away close to 60 full set ups! Our Facebook groups openly welcome new members so come find out what it's all about!



angling journey. This is what fishing is about.. HELPING EACH OTHER! Tight lines gang!



Each 'Ready, Steady, Fish' pack contains: 400g of shelf life Squabs • 3 x medium swivel Stonze weights of 2 - 2.5 ozs • 3 x Gripz hair rigs (for 14mm baits use size 8 Gripz, 18mm baits use size 6 Gripz) • 500g of Carp Crush groundbait/method mix • Anti-tangle foam • Boilie stops • Packet of Gammarus shrimp

• Packet of 15 x 10mm pop ups



The lucky winners for June well done!



Tommee, Zack and Tai

FRESHWATER





Ben McCarthy - 18lbs 13ozs

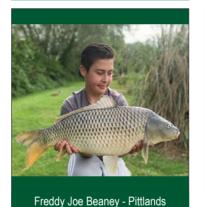
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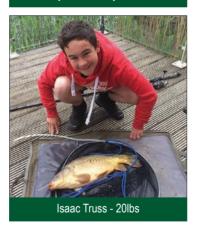
Charlie Lucenti - 19lbs Iden Wood

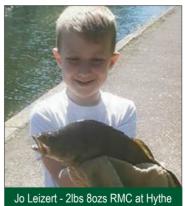














Harry Metcalfe - Oakley Road Fishery

Michael King - age 7 - Mousehole Lakes

Email your Catch Photo to the Freshwater Informer at: barnic@btinternet.com or message us on the Facebook page!





Laila Stanton at Mousehole Lakes

Well done Kai!

Gabriels Farm fishery at Edenbridge sent me this great story that they received from one of their junior anglers:

"Hi my name is Kai. I'm 11 years old and on Thursday 3rd of June the 'Big Day' arrived. I was going fishing for the first time ever with my Grandad. We went to Gabriel's Farm fishery at Edenbridge, it's where my grandad always goes.

We arrived at 11 am and set up. I was float fishing with maggots and grandad was legering. Within 10 minutes I caught my first fish, but my strike was a bit too strong and the float and line ended up in a tree and the fish came off the hook and ended up on the bank under my chair. We both had a good



laugh about that, my grandad took a picture of me and my prize fish and I put it back in the water and it swam off ok.

I caught 3 perch and 22 silver fish. We fished a nice lake called Hare and we stayed till 5 pm. I wanted to stay longer as I was



having so much fun, but Grandad said it was time to go home. As we left the fishery my Grandad spoke to Derek, the owner of Gabriel's Fishery, and Derek asked me how I got on. He seemed impressed and said if I email him with a picture I may get in The Freshwater informer magazine.

I can't wait to go again I really like fishing, but next time I want to go on Oak lake at Gabriel's and catch a monster!" Best wishes, Kai

Well done Kai! Hope you catch your dream monster very soon!

Fun Day at Holm Place Farm!

Thanks to Paul Cooper who told me about this great story from Darent Valley Hospital in NW Kent:

"Our sincere thanks to Holm Place Farm at Sheerness who offered a free fishing experience to NHS staffs' children as part of a Welfare Fishing Day. 50 lucky children were each offered a 40-minute teaching session with all bait and tackle provided. Plus 8 experienced anglers were offered the use of swims.



Here are some photos of a couple of the lucky winners who attended. Everyone had a lovely day, the sun was shining and we've received some great feedback from



a family who attended. Thank you so much for this. Just wanted to say that we had a wonderful experience and my children thoroughly enjoyed the visit. It was their first time ever, going fishing. Fantastic hosts at the Holm Place Farm too".







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

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14 miles of River and 7 Lakes containing:

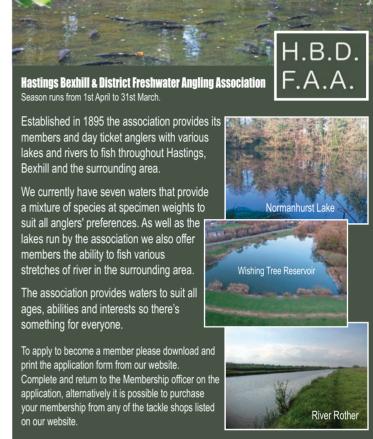
Carp to 52lb 4oz, Tench to 12lb 8oz, Bream to 19lb+, Barbel to 15lb 2oz, Chub to 5lb+, Perch to 3lb 6oz, Pike to 31lb 6oz, Crucians to 4lb 6oz and Grass Carp to 29lb 6oz.

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

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Contact Martyn on 07802 248861



For further information please contact:

Chris Pagan 07429 655237 Steve Potter 07935 268174

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TROUT INFORMER

Brick Farm Lakes Herstmonceux, East Sussex

As a result of the changeable weather of late with some lovely sun and also much needed rain, the flora is growing faster than ever and everything is now a very lush green. All the water based plants are looking fantastic with the rushes and reeds that were planted on Spring lake last year starting to develop and spread. The usual weed in Brick Lake along the western bank is back, but we are keeping this maintained as much as possible so as to keep the areas in front of weed is absolutely full of natural pond life including the stands as clear as we can. This

damselflies, dragonflies, pond skaters, snails and water beetles and therefore drawing the trout closer to the margins so we aren't removing it completely this year. The mower has come out from winter hibernation and we are regularly keeping everywhere looking neat and tidy.

> We are seeing several anglers catching well and fulfilling their bags with healthy weights

on Saturday morning Danielle Adams added 3 additional fish to her already full 4 fish bag, and Ray Burt begun the day on a 5 fish ticket only to head back to the Lodge at the end of the day with 8 fish in total! **Bob Hussey** (above) had a lovely 6lbs 12ozs rainbow with a stunning tail caught on a green & black nymph.

> The log book is showing that as always, Blue Flash Damsels are catching well. We are seeing regular hatches throughout the day and smaller flies such as Buzzers are producing well, but also slow sinking naturals such as Daddies are catching.

This summer will see the return of our 5am Saturday morning openings: for the whole of July and August we will open the gates early on Saturdays to allow some fishing before the heat of the summer day sets in. Last year this proved quite popular, particularly with our flexible closing times meaning that you can fish for a few hours in the morning, go elsewhere and spend the day with the family, and then return for the evening rises! Just make sure you let us know when you leave and return to site for health and safety please!





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Well done to Cinder Hill members!



Mark Orchin sent in this report: Cinder Hill members raised a stunning £730 for Macmillan Nurses in our 4th annual event. We have now raised over £2,200. Val and Mandy ran the excellent catering with meat supplies by member Jim Awcock from Perretts. In sometimes challenging conditions around 40 trout to 4lbs were landed.





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Fishing Lure

Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman

Lure Fishing

Bewl Water [TN3 8JH]

It was great to be back at Bewl Water for my first trip of the season. While waiting for my boat partner Paul Canning to arrive, I took the opportunity to catch up with Bewl regulars George Brown and Ray French. I was keen to get some inside information on fish locations and successful tactics!

With a South Westerly wind we started our first drift over by the Ferry Point, aiming to drift across Bewl Straight towards the corner of Chingley Woods. Half way across the straight I noticed an angler's rod bent into a fish downwind of us so I knew we were heading in the right direction.

I started on a Di5 sinking line with two Buzzers and a FAB Blob on the point. I was aiming to cast a short line, getting my team of flies deep guickly before slowly bringing them up through the water's layers. This vertical presentation imitates perfectly the path Buzzers take as they ascend towards the surface before hatching. This is an unfamiliar method to me, but I was hoping to learn how to get the best out of this presentation before my next visit to Farmoor reservoir. The fish at Farmoor often feed in deep water on Buzzers close to the bottom. I imagine this vertical method could be a killer there, if I could perfect it. Paul had elected to fish a team of dries which is a favourite



tactic of mine. I was rather sceptical about his choice on this occasion, the bright windy conditions coupled with the cold water temperature wasn't conducive to good dry fly action.



After two unsuccessful drifts I felt my Di5 line was going too deep so I changed to a Di3. This slower sinking line would hopefully keep my flies in the "strike zone" for longer. We observed a few more fish falling to other boats around us. It was getting rather busy for our liking, as more boats crowded this small area so we moved off. I was eager to explore elsewhere further down Bewl Straight. Our next drift was going to be over a shallow point so I changed lines to a fast glass intermediate with sinks at half the speed of the Di3. I had now abandoned the vertical approach and was going to retrieve horizontally. First drift and I hooked a fish on a Buzzer; it's always reassuring to get the first fish in the boat as it builds confidence. Next drift and another fish confirms we're in the right area; Paul switched from dries to nymphs fished on a midge tip line. We systematically made different drifts across the point and down the drop off into Hatherall's Bay. A couple more fish to me and Paul concedes that the 'midge tip' is limiting his retrieve speed too much, as he tries to maintain the fly's depth. A quick change to an intermediate and Paul hooks a fish on his first cast. Before we stop for lunch Paul adds another fish to his tally, so he can relax now happy in the knowledge he's now got everything sorted for the afternoon session.

After lunch, our guiet spot had become rather busy with two boats now anchored on the point and another in the back of Hatherall's Bay. We managed a few drifts in between them and I managed another couple of fish. I was starting my retrieves immediately the line landed, after straightening the leader. Long slow pulls followed by a brisk figure of eight was successful which indicated the fish were feeding very close to the surface. The fishing pressure now took its toll and the fish went off the feed. We moved on exploring other areas further down Bewl Straight but failed to find another hot spot. After an hour we returned to the point where most of the boats had now dispersed. The first couple of drifts didn't produce anything so it was time to consider a change, but what to? Before a line change, I tried counting down a little longer before starting my retrieve, searching a bit deeper and this proved to be the right decision as I caught two more fish.

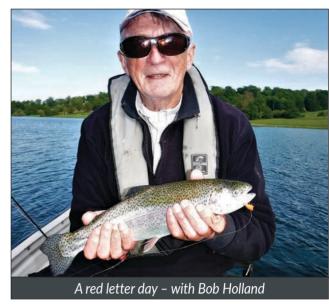
Paul left early, so after returning him to the jetty, I headed to the dam. It had been too lumpy and uncomfortable to fish there in the morning as it was at the bottom of a freshening wind. It was much calmer now, so I started my drift about 400 yards out while searching for signs of fish. I was drifting faster than I'm comfortable with but as I approached the dam, now less than 100 yards away the boat slowed as the undertow gripped the boat. I now had much better contact with my flies and was able to slowly search the water with a variety of retrieves. Long smooth pulls, a slow roly poly or a brisk figure of eight all caught the fishes' attention. I missed several takes as the fish mouthed my flies. This was indicated by the line gradually tightening moments before slackening off again. I finally managed to hook a few more fish, landing four and dropping another three, all in less than two hours, what a fantastic finale. Most of my fish fell to two flies, my middle dropper, a small Quill Buzzer, and a Fulling Mill Ham & Cheese FAB Blob on the point.

Another day at Bewl

I hadn't been to Bewl for a few weeks and was keen to see how the fish were responding to the recent spell of hot weather. I'd read reports that the fish were finally leaving the margins and filtering out into open water, mainly in and around the basin. The basin is the main body of water which extends from the dam up to Ferry Point and across to Hook House. The fish circulate around this vague area, moved around by the wind.

My boat partner was Bob Holland, an ace fly tyer and Bewl regular. I was eager to explore some of my old haunts up Hook Straight and some of the other quiet spots we both knew. Recent trout stocking had included these areas in an effort to spread the fishing out, away from the obvious main basin where so many other activities also take place. To be successful a reservoir angler has to learn how to catch fish while searching water from a drifting boat. We headed off to the "top end" of Hook Straight one of our favourite areas. The top end is rather shallow, 10-15ft I would imagine. It's an area where it can be feast or famine in my experience, that's the polite version by the way!

We slowly motored into position, it's important to approach these shallow areas cautiously. I noticed the reassuring signs of fish. Not obvious at first, but occasionally we spotted slight changes in the surface ripple that indicated their presence. We both choose floating lines and fished teams of nymphs that included a buoyant point fly, so we could fish the washing line system. I can't stress enough how important it is to keep your flies above the fish at all times once they've left the margins. It's so easy to let your flies drop below the fish if you fail to maintain tension between the fly line and the buoyant point fly. On this occasion we were both using FAB Blobs as our point flies. Bob was off to a flying start boating half a dozen fish before I'd even had a take! I had to change my size 12 FAB to a size 10 which surprisingly made a massive difference creating more resistance and tension which helped me maintain the contact I'd been



missing up until then. It sounds implausible that such a small change can make such a big difference, but it did as I immediately started catching fish. Despite the sunny hot weather the fish didn't seem to mind a bit and the action only slowed a little around lunch time, which was handy.

Mid-afternoon and a little cloud cover encouraged a few fish to rise which saw me guickly switch to my favourite method, dry flies. I was so pleased to catch a couple of fish on CDC Hoppers; I also missed a couple when the accumulation of floating tree pollen on the surface made it nigh on impossible see my flies amongst the surface clutter. Reluctantly, I had to change back to nymphs on the washing line and immediately caught fish. Bob had generously given me one of his special Cruncher patterns which proved its worth catching most of my fish. As our day came to a close I was able to repay his

generosity by pointing out some fish I'd noticed on his side of the boat. His cast landed perfectly in their path and produced the biggest fish of the day! It's not often you can't remember how many fish you'd caught, but this was one of those red letter days.

Sweet memories

With so many fish to our boat it's hard to recall all of the action, but one or two instances stick in my mind. Such as when Bob cast towards a pod of fish



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Andy offers a guiding service for those who want to learn more about 'Lure Fishing' and 'Fly Fishing'

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he'd spotted working their way upwind towards us. He dropped his cast just short of the pod which allowed the fish to find his flies without being alarmed. As Bob straightened his leader, the wake off his point fly immediately alerted a fish to its presence. It came barrelling through the surface as he started the retrieve, pushing water ahead of it. We could clearly see the bulge in the water's surface and then a mouth appear, moments before the line tightened as the fish turned away, fish on!

My memorable moment came while fishing dries; we were approaching the downwind shore where some straggly weed lined the margins. I made a speculative cast towards the weeds and clearly saw a trout swim directly from underneath the cover over to my fly before slowly rising up and taking it. That one will stick in the memory banks for some time!

The water was so clear that on several occasions I saw fish swimming under or around our boat. On several occasions I watched fish swim over and inspect my point fly, which happened to be a bright Farmoor Blob. It was fascinating watching fish following our flies; sometimes they would take a side swipe at them without actually taking hold, then another fish would take an even closer look. This was exciting stuff and something we rarely get to see at Bewl as the water isn't usually this clear.

Bewl is on fire at the moment! I just hope the gorgeous weather doesn't spoil our fun.

Tight lines, Andy Lush

Sea Informer

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Please support your local tackle shop!

With July now upon us we can expect our full run of summer species around our coastline. The water is approaching 15 degrees so has warmed considerably in recent weeks. The weed continues to plague the North Kent coast making it unfishable on certain tides. The situation has not been helped by the recent sewage spill from

the Margate pumping station when it was hit by a lightning strike during the recent storms in the middle of June. The fishing has been pretty good when the weed situation allowed and should continue to improve if the weather conditions remain settled. The first mackerel are being caught along the Kent coast and shoals of whitebait were seen very close in during early June. Rays and bass continue to be caught from most marks and the smoothounds, although intermittent, are still around with fish to double figures. Sting ravs will move in closer to sandy shore marks in Kent and Sussex and fish to 50lbs are not uncommon! I am always looking for additional sponsors for this popular section of the magazine so if your business would like to get onboard please get in touch! The amount of sponsorship is entirely at the discretion of the sponsor and all amounts received help to finance the Sea Informer pages. Thank you.

Thames report courtesy of Wayne May Greenhithe: St Clements reach, plenty of flounders and the odd school bass were caught over evening and night tides, using frozen blacks and ragworm, the flatties were plentiful. Rig of choice was a two hook flapper and up and over rigs for the flat fish. Gravesend:









Behind B&Q, we found this guite challenging recently due to the amount of weed present, only landing a couple of flatties. Long power casts proved to be more productive with fewer tackle losses. Thames estuary: Allhallows, a first for me, as we tried kayak fishing. This proved to be a fantastic days fishing with smoothounds up to 9lbs being caught nearly all day, one of the most exciting days fishing I've experienced for a while! Hardback crabs were catching several smoothounds, but the crab cart was an excellent choice, pre-frozen and wrapped and stored in a thermos was the top bait, and I will certainly be using it again. Choice of rig was a flowing rig with a single hook. NJ Fishing Tackle at Gravesend has a great range of tackle and bait. Call 01474 353998.

Medway report Catches have been mainly of bass and eels, although plenty of mullet are cruising around in the marinas, but are very wary and easily spooked. Still a few rays and the occasional small hound from Gillingham pier. Crab activity has been an issue in the river so worth popping up your baits if you can! Medway Tackle Supplies at Twydall has a great range of tackle and fresh and frozen baits. Call 01634 475260.





Sheppey report courtesy of Sheppey Angling The weed is still being

troublesome around the island. However rays, good bass, hounds, eels and some

flatties are being caught. The hounds have been more prolific on the night tides. Bait collecting on Sheppey - please be aware that officials are enforcing the no collection of bait around most of Sheppey's shoreline. The area at Shellness is being strictly policed and collecting bait runs the risk of prosecution as officials are being accompanied by police officers. Call Sheppey Angling on 01795 661089.

North Kent report Weed has made fishing 'challenging'! Some tides have been impossible to fish due to huge rafts of the stuff. However, some nice smoothounds and bass have been caught along with a few rays. Hopefully this month will

see the weed issue begin to

ease. Still some flatties, bass and eels from Whitstable beaches and rays and bass







baits. Call 01227 636724.



from the Swale Estuary. Absolute Tackle at Herne Common stocks a wide range of tackle along with fresh and frozen



Thanet report courtesy of Fisherman's Corner It's got to the time of year where the weed has become problematic, but for the anglers fishing

through the weed there are still fish to be had!! Still some big smoothhounds and bass in the warm water. Lures have become a must in the clear water for



bass, with lugworm, ragworm and fish baits working well in dirty water.

For any information on fishing Thanet or bait and tackle, contact Fisherman's Corner 01843 582174.

Deal report courtesy of Channel Angling Deal At the moment we are catching vast amounts of dogfish which is making it more difficult to catch other species, but there have been guite a few bass dotted about on the pier and beach, which is good news. The odd smoothhound is also turning up again on the pier or beach. The mackerel are playing hard to get at the moment due to the colour in the water. Let's hope that changes soon! If you decide to get out on the pier or beaches at Deal, you won't be short of bites, mostly resulting with a dogfish!

For bait and advice, please call Channel Angling at Deal on 01304 373104. Channel Angling is situated at the pier entrance.

Dover report With the Admiralty Pier still closed for fishing, anglers have been using Shakespeare beach and Samphire Hoe. The beach has produced













FRESHWATER



rays, hounds, bass, mackerel, dogfish and whiting. The Hoe has seen lots of wrasse, pollack, bass and some mackerel. Call Channel Angling at Dover for all your tackle and bait requirements on 01304 203742.

Folkestone report courtesy of Folkestone Angling The pier fishing has been generally good of late with the water remaining fairly coloured. However, this has meant that mackerel have yet to be caught in any numbers. Bottom fishing has seen a good variety of fish with bass being taken down the wall on ragworm and sandeel. Plenty of dogfish, smoothounds, plaice, dabs and whiting. To fish on the pier







the pier are limited to 25 anglers due to Covid restrictions. DSAA are hoping to have space for disabled anglers in the near future. Call Folkestone Angling on 01303 253881 for your bait and tackle needs and information regarding fishing on the pier. Folkestone Angling is in Tontine Street and just a few minutes walk from the pier.



Hythe report courtesy of Steve Bates The area has been fishing reasonably well over the past month. There are plenty of the usual suspects about at the moment with dogfish in abundance, Dabs, whiting and the odd rockling. The spider crabs can prove to be a problem at times but as they start to shed, they make good bait if you can collect a few up. The rays have not been as prolific as they have been, but picking the right tide in an evening with a light south westerly may help move a few inshore. I have heard of a few mackerel showing over the late afternoon high tides, hopefully we will start to see a few more shoals moving through as the weather starts to settle, but the good news that







follows the mackerel shoals is the chance for a big bass, there have been a few decent bass caught on the lure and baits with a nice fish recently going over 5lbs fished at short range. The odd small hound has also showed, so as well as having mackerel feathers in your tackle box you should definitely have a few crabs in the bait bag too. Pulley pennels baited with fish baits or squid should help you find the rays and fresh lug on clipped down rigs or flappers should help you find most other species.



Eastbourne and area report courtesy of Tony's Tackle Some great fish caught this month from the Sussex shoreline although it has generally been quiet during daytime, apart from a few good catches of plaice early in the month on black lug. Still plenty of smoothounds on crab or squid up to 12 lbs although not quite as prolific as last year. Masses of thornbacks from Pevensey near Alice's Pipe and the end of the bungalows on bluey and squid, Jim Whippy landed one of over 10 lbs. At Shoreham the beaches are alive with undulate rays as I write this piece. Most are being taken on squid, mackerel and blueys. Damian Chant landed several in one night. Eastbourne boats catching plenty of bass on lures from Beachy Head and the Horse on livebaits with plaice, bull huss and plenty of hounds showing. Panther had some cod on sidewinders up to 14 lbs from the light tower area the long tides coming soon will improve the beach fishing immensely and will see the arrival of some

big Dover soles from Langney Point and White Horses on lugworm. Some good ones have already been caught but this will improve in July. A few silver eels are showing at low tide and good size bream, plaice and rays from Eastbourne pier. Match fishing is slow at the moment but Mark Underhill has had a few results. Smoothounds have been wrecking matches but I love it and can't even think of banning these great fighting fish. Don't worry Gerald Sargeant they will be gone soon! Tight lines everyone and have a great







month's sport. Visit www.tonystackleshop.co.uk or call 01313 731388 or 07821 514853.













SAM'S FISHING JOURNAL

An insight in to restoring and running a small angling boat. Please note that this is not a 'how to tackle boat restoration' instruction, but a story of how I undertook this project.

courtesy of Sam Cox

The Tale of Raptor - Part One

Sea Informer

For me sitting on a boat fishing as the sun rises is a liberating experience. However, this experience of liberation is somewhat of a paradox, as to be liberated is to be free and being stuck in a boat surrounded by water is somewhat confining. There is also the cost of it all, the only real thing being liberated is one's bank account! Owning your own boat is guite a tie, there are the ongoing costs like mooring fees, maintenance and insurance to name a few and all this is before you have even used the thing! Take it from me, it takes a lot of practice to ignore the above and simply enjoy fishing from your own boat.

I have owned a few small sixteen footers and have had many adventures along the way and even caught a few fish. One problem many boaters have is the accumulation of junk, at one time I had six boats in my garden! One particular 24 footer gifted to me by my farther sat there so long that my then girlfriend hung hanging baskets of flowers from her samson posts. I now have a small garden and my present partner is a very keen gardener, so problem solved.

The last fishing boat I owned was a sixteen and a half foot Del Quay Dory that I named 'Raptor'. I bought her as a wreck for £400 and over the next year with the expert help of my Dad we turned her into a quite decent centre console sports fishing boat. In her previous life she had been a rescue boat for Mersea Sailing club on the North side of the River Blackwater.

As with all boat projects transforming this little boat cost more time and money than anticipated. She was a heavy boat for her size, previous 16 footers I have owned could be lifted by the bow, but two of us could barely move her few inches. The reason being that she was full of saturated expanding foam. Dad carefully removed the moulded fibreglass deck with an angle grinder. This was then put to one side as it would be reused. Next, armed with a spade, we dug out several hundred pounds of wet foam. Once this was done the whole boat went floppy! These boats do not have any bulkheads or much support of any kind. The Del Quay Dory is made of two mouldings that are laminated together, expanding foam is then pumped into the cavities, giving the boat its rigidity and strength. This method also prevents the boat from sinking should the hull be breached.

Raptor after Dad cut the deck out and glass bulk heads in

Once all the wet foam was removed, the boat was chocked until she was level. I then scraped and vacuumed all remaining foam from inside the hull and deck. After levelling her up she then had to be meticulously cleaned, then cleaned again with acetone. Dad then glassed in a five-inch pipe along the middle of the hull, followed by three bulk heads to give her real strength. This was done with three layers of fibre

> Along the edge of the hole left by the deck, a plywood lip was also glassed in. We then put plasticine all along the top edge of this lip and the deck was put back and secured every six inches with self-tapping screws. This was temporary and enabled us to carry out the next process, pumping £250 worth of closed cell expanding foam, one can at a time into the cavities. We did however get the amounts slightly wrong causing the moulded seat at the front to bulge a little! We left the boat alone for five days so the expanding foam would cure.

> The deck and plasticine were then removed and all surfaces cleaned again with acetone. An eightinch strip of saturated fibreglass was laid all around the lip and the deck replaced and re-secured with the self-tapping screws. Once the resin in the fibre glass had cured, Dad tidied the area up

with his grinder and an eight inch strip of fibreglass was carefully laid on the top side of the deck completely sealing the deck in place.

The next task was to flip her upside down and begin the work on the underside of the hull. In her previous life she had been run up the beach numerous times leading to many repairs along her keel. I sanded these all back until the keel line was level and then applied three more layers of chop stand fibreglass, before again sanding it back to a smooth finish.

Again, we flipped her over, so I could start the long job of preparing the hull for painting. I must have spent over a hundred hours sanding that boat, it certainly felt like more!

While I was covering myself and the garden with horrible itchy dust, Dad was busy building a console for her. Originally the Del Quay Dory's were fitted with a small side console installed at low level on the starboard side. The boats had to be driven from a sitting position, but we wanted a just off-centre console that could be steered standing up or from a pedestal seat. Dad built the console to be strong enough to fall on and not break. It certainly was that being

built of half inch plywood and being

covered in oven woven fibreglass. It was also very practical with plenty of storage and room for wiring. It also incorporated a seat on the front that also had more storage below it.

Dad working

on the deck

Once the preparation was complete, 'Raptor' was ready to paint. We chose to use Jotun Penguard, this is a good quality two pack paint. I was fortunate enough to have my friend Wayne McCully offer to spay her for me. The plan was to give her three coats of primer and two coats of topcoat. Spraying her turned out to be a task! At the time I lived out on Dengie Marshes and 'Raptor' was kept in the garden, not under cover. This area is reclaimed land with a high sand content that was once underwater. During the summer, the ground would dry turning it into dust and this made spraying her difficult. We tried damping down the area around her, but this just made it messy. In the end, the job got done and she looked like a shiny new penny!

'Raptor' came with two stainless handrails forward, but none aft. Dad had a friend that worked with stainless and bought two lovely handrails for the rear area and a small gantry for the top of the centre console. Once these were fitted, she really started taking shape.

I needed to source an outboard engine for the boat. Del Quay Dory's are rated up to 145 horsepower. I could not afford to run an engine of that size, let alone buy one, but I did know where there was a decent 55HP two stroke Yamaha. This engine had one large issue; it was already attached to a boat!





So, I ended up buying the boat! I then put a 35hp outboard that I already had in the shed on it, gave her a lick of paint and sold it on Ebay! This meant the Yamaha ended up costing me nothing. Although a mid-80s model, the engine was a good one and after a good overhaul by my good friend Simon Manning, it proved to be reliable.

The console was built, the engine was installed, hull and decks sprayed with several coats of paint, but there were still things to do before splash day. I had to paint the console and decks and for this I opted to use some standard grey colour deck paint, after all both had already had multiple coats of penguard. My reasons for painting both decks and console with the same paint was that I liked the colour and deck paint offers a certain amount of grip. It also meant that the console was easy to hang on to. The last of the painting was to anti-foul the bottom of the hull with red Jotun anti-foul paint. This made such a difference and was one of the key moments in the refit, a moment where I could see an end!

It was now time to install the electronics. I had bought some basic navigation lights, a bilge pump and simple fused switch panel from Ebay. Installing these was straightforward. A commercial fishermen friend had recently upgraded his black and white chart plotter to a colour unit, so I managed to get a very decent ten inch chart plotter for a couple of hundred quid. There is a theme here guys, Dads help, doing deals and getting friends to help all made this project almost affordable for me!"

More on the 'Tale of Raptor' next month!



HASTINGS report courtesy of Hastings Angling Centre

The very late spring has finally arrived and the fishing has improved greatly. In the boats codlings are being picked up regularly on rough ground with bait and lures, bass have moved in with lots of schoolies in the 1 to 4lbs range with the odd better one. Smoothounds are still coming with modest numbers of small ones about but the odd very good one caught. Mark Fairhurst had one



about 17lbs the best reported. The really good news is that the tope have arrived in numbers and quality. Your reporter had a cracking day at the end of May with two over 40lbs and one over 30lbs. On the next trip we had over 30 tope to the boat best going 25lbs. Terrific sport uptiding. The mackerel have also arrived, not in great numbers as yet, but enough for ample bait.

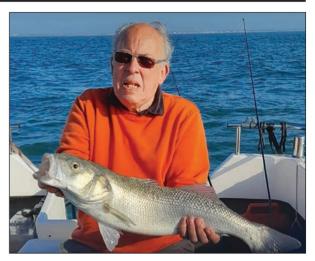
On the shore, soles starting to appear, with rays

and hounds all in the evening and into darkness (after the beach clears!). Bass on lures in the clearer water and some mackerel being caught.

Boat prospects for July: the black bream usually appear in numbers this month. Hopefully the bigger hounds will be about, the codlings hang around. Bass and pollack on the wrecks. The plaice are coming to their best now as well. Then there are the tope! Conger fishing also can be very good.

Beach prospects for July: Soles in the evening along with bass on big baits (especially if the mackerel have been in). Rays and hounds in favoured areas. Bass on lures around the rocks if the water is reasonably clear. Mackerel on calm days.











July 2021

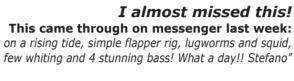
DUNGENESS Latest catch reports on www.seagullfishingtackle.com

Well summer is here and the weather is up and down, no surprise. With the change of date, 'freedom' day from the government to 19th of July the DAA have cancelled its planned matches until then. Let's hope it is red hot in July / August, I can't wait!

BEACH REPORTS

Is this the best bass season in living memory? I believe it is with so many fish. There are loads about to around six pounds and plenty of smaller fish, I expect some bigger fish to show in late summer and early autumn, can it get even better? Here are a few reports from my site, nice to see so many 'ice breakers' catching:

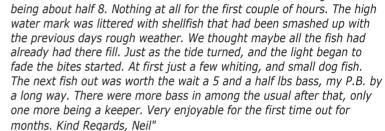
"Hi Tony, fished Dungeness today on a rising tide, simple flapper rig, lugworms and squid, plenty of dogfish, few whiting and 4 stunning bass! What a day!! Stefano"





A great result for Neil! I had this sent in from Neil Edgar:

"Hello Tony, My fishing buddy Nick, and I spend a good evening fishing on Saturday 22nd. We fished around halfway between the lifeboat station and the back of the boats from about 6 to 10 o'clock, with high water





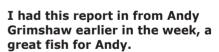
More and more beautiful bass

Linsey Kemp popped into the shop and showed me this photo of the bass she caught in St Marys Bay, a cracking fish of 55cms on yellow tail lugworm.

Mission accomplished! I had this report in last night from Dave Francis: "Fished behind the lifeboat for a couple of hours up to midday

today. I know you've seen bigger bass before but I went to catch a bass and just what I did. Job done !"

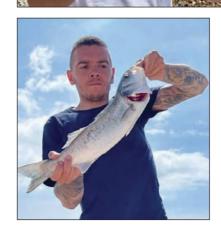




"Measured 55cms...My guess would be 5lb 7oz something like that."







Fishing is so easy! I had this report in from Jamie Parsons...it's great when it all works out:

"As an avid carp fisherman, I've recently bought a property locally, I attended Seagull Fishing Tackle, speaking to the knowledgeable local fisherman behind the counter. I bought my first sea rod. I went to the location recommended near to the old lighthouse, 20 minutes in I caught this beauty on lug, single hook rig, 44cms."

BEACH OUTLOOK FOR JULY

It can only get better, I expect more bass and of course mackerel to show in numbers. No massive tides this month, but as usual it depends on the weather.

BEST BAITS Fish baits are great for bass (so are worms and crab) but as the water clears lures, wedges and feathers come into play.

BOAT REPORTS

With the weather being up and down, the good days are good, and the bad days are...! Here are a few reports from the last month:

Good day for Jerry I saw this report from Jerry Oiller of 'Fairchance' fame last night:

"A nice day to be afloat, Dan and Foggy Robinson aboard today, a show for a pollack and 1 or 2 codling. Drifting the wrecks today, mackerel are becoming more abundant, and the tope are making a show at anchor. Things are starting to look up. Happy Days."

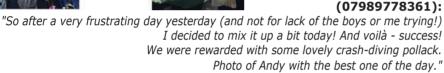


That one's got teeth

I saw this was posted last night by Trevor Bunney:

"Gary Greenhill with a fine tope on board Elizabeth Jane today. The lads also had some action on the candy king lures at the end of the day with young Sam McCloud landing a nice bass just shy of 7lbs and his Dad getting in on some nice pollack. Well done guys, good effort!"

When the going gets tough I had this report in today from Anthony out on Peganina from Rve





BOAT OUTLOOK FOR JULY

The summer fishing will be in full swing, as always it depends if your lucky with the weather and it won't be long before we see some black bream and other summer species.

BEST BAITS Artificial sandeels on the wrecks, otherwise fish baits on the bottom, strips of mackerel or squid.





JAMES ENJOYS SOME SUSSEX ACTION!









James Clifton sent in this report to the Freshwater Informer and said: "I had the hounds in East Sussex. I done 2 trips down there a couple of weeks ago and had about 30 hounds in the 2 sessions. 5 or 6 of them were doubles. The Undulates came from Shoreham, I had 4 Undulates with the biggest going 10lbs 2ozs and my dad also had a couple including a 10lber!"

OUT AND ABOUT WITH ANDY by Andrew Cook

Three hours of total mayhem!

am almost lost for words, although I've personally caught more hounds in a session, I've never seen so many bites and fish landed, including four on the sand at the same time, TWICE, and a double hook up

The Mrs was off shopping with the Mother-in-Law so this gave me the opportunity to try out a mark that I haven't fished before. The mark is known for low water angling but as I had all afternoon I decided to have a couple of hours at HW as well. I was on the mark bang on high tide at 3pm. The water was very coloured with a little floating weed and a nippy NE hitting my right cheek.

I fished just one rod to start, changing baits between rag, crab and squid. Two hours later and not so much as a rattle, which didn't surprise me, as this mark is well known for being poor over HW. It's very shallow and I was losing water fast so I packed up for an hour to frequent the local McDonalds, sorry sandwich fans, I fancied a moody burger and luke warm fries for a change!



Back on the mark at 6:15pm. It's not the safest of locations with lots of tripping and slipping hazards along with a fast flooding tide later and it was going to be dark soon so I was feeling slightly anxious to be going out there on my own and to be honest I was hoping for another angler to be there who I can buddy up with. I needn't have worried because as I pulled up Richard Smith and Becky Lee were unloading their car. Barry Heaton also arrived a little later. We made our way to the water's edge and set up, but then spent a good 45 minutes crabbing.

By 7:30pm, the baits were out, two rods, two pulley rigs, crab on one, large rag on the other, nice and simple. A couple of chaps were to our east and one of them had two hounds out in the space of five minutes so things were looking very promising. The wind was slowly dropping off as well.

Becky struck first with a hound around the 6lbs mark, followed by Richard with a similar fish. I had a bite on the rag at virtually the same time but it turned out to be a dogfish. Ten minutes later and it all kicked off with the three of us into hounds at the same time. I walked towards the water's edge to retrieve mine and walked back, but as I got nearer to my tripod something brushed across my face! It was my other line and I had a big slack liner. I quickly put the first hound in a rock pool and lifted into the other fish.

A few minutes later and I had two on the shore at once and we had four in total. All this and the sun hadn't even gone down yet! The beach was also filling up to the left of us with around ten anglers arriving in a short space of time.

The next couple of hours were a bit of a blur, although I only landed one more hound. I lost what I was sure was an easy double close in when it briefly snagged me up and as I reeled up to it while attempting to wade out the twenty



or so yards to free it, the hook must have got spat out. I also missed four further good bites which I believed was my fault as one of my rigs had been used last Wednesday and I

believed the hook point may not have been at its

sharpest. It felt like the time went by in minutes and that I was pretty much constantly baiting up. At one point I was helping Becky and Richard as Becky had hooked a 13lbs 5ozs hound, but the bait clip had snagged Richard's braid, so there was then three of us thirty yards into the sea with water near our waist trying to untangle the lines!







I was also marvelling and taking photographs as fish after fish came ashore. Normally, I try and report on the fish caught in chronological order, but to be honest, it had been so manic I genuinely can't remember who caught what fish when! Just after 11pm and as previously mentioned, the tide was flooding fast, almost at walking pace and we moved back several times already so it was time to call it a day and get off the shoreline fast.

The final tally was 24 Hounds landed as follows:-Becky - 9 hounds including the 13lbs one and one at 11lbs / Richard - 6 hounds

Barry - 6 hounds / Myself - 3 hounds plus the dogfish. Apart from the two doubles, the sizes ranged roughly between 4lbs and 8lbs. We must have also dropped five more between us, plus my several missed bites, the water must have been full of them tonight. It was an absolute belter and always good to meet up with fellow anglers for a yarn, not that we had much time for talking!

Tight lines, Andy



ow, how the weather has changed! The water temperature is up to a nice 14 degrees and the smoothounds are playing ball. We still haven't achieved the 20 lbs dream, but just shy of 19lbs is the biggest so far. The rods are out as I am writing this report and how funny would it be if!!.

Let's talk about bait for the hounds. I usually have around 5000 frozen crab for the spring run of hounds, but this year I managed maybe 1000 so we've had to find substitute baits which has not always been easy. We have been using hardback crab, shrimp, yellow tails and squid, but the dogfish do like a drop of squid so be warned. We have started tagging the bigger fish and this will be very interesting to find out their migratory pattern and we get a free pen so worth it .I prefer a running rig when the tide is running and a 5 ft

hook length of Asso 50lbs bs line with 4/0 Koike hooks on a pennel rig only for the shrimp to present better. I like the heavier line on the hook length so I can grab the hounds without the net. I find it easier to hold and get the hook out and release or tag depending on size. I do see a lot on social media of people holding by the tail and head facing down. Please try to be careful with these wonderful fighting fish as, like a shark, their bellies can fall out and kill the fish. So 2 hands, one on the tail and one on the head, a nice photo and release.





Now on to most people's favourite, the bass. We are currently allowed to retain two fish, but just because we are allowed two doesn't mean we have to kill, especially if it is of a fair size. I must confess I don't like to target bass as a one off fish as usually the bigger fish are solitary so one angler is happy and the other anglers disappointed, but when they are schooling I find this so much fun. Light rods and feathers and a nice 200gm lure game on with explosive runs and dives with sometimes every hook full, then release the fish you want and keep two for the table. I generally give have a couple of drifts then call it a day. No point killing the base for the sake of it or go down to one lure with a single hook then you will not damage the fish. We have had bass up to 6 lbs schooling, any bigger and they seem to leave the pack. Bait fishing for these wonderful is normally with fish, yellowtails and rag, alternatively prawns, squid and live baits. Another very underrated bait is cuttle fish. It stays on the hook for longer periods than squid and doesn't attract as many dogfish. The mackerel haven't got going yet, although the birds are working through the slack water so you would assume the mackerel would be there, but no joy yet which is a shame for the younger angler who needs occupying. Maybe with the water temperatures rising fast we will get the shoals very soon Mackerel are very good on the bbq with this tropical weather!





We are still catching skate, but not in numbers on the boat. There are the odd few here and there but I do think this is down to targeting the hounds. Herring chunk and bluey are the baits if you can get hold of it or mackerel.

Let's hope the fishing continues as good as it started! From all of us on the Lady Ann of Ramsgate, tight lines and hope to see some of you very soon!

Regards, Jason

If you fancy a day afloat with Jason on the Lady Ann, give him a call on 07966 273650.

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Lingfield RH7 6HL 01342 324006 /	07710 656041
Charlies Lakes	07057 520705
Steeds Lane, Kingsnorth, Ashford TN26 1NH Chequertree Trout and Coarse Fishery	07857 539785
Bethersden, Near Ashford TN26 3JR Claygate Lakes	01233 820078
Collier Street, Claygate, Marden TN12 9PL	07770 513448
Coombewood Fishery Redbrook Street High Halden, Near Ashford TN26 3JH	07895 679569
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Eureka Fishery Nicholas Road, Kennington, Ashford TN25 4AG	07597 879621
Frant Lakes Hawkenbury Road Bells Yew Green, Tunbridge Wells TN3 9AP	01892 616424
Furnace Brook Fishery and Fish Farm Trolliloes	<u> </u>
Cowbeech, near Hailsham BN27 4QR Gabriels Fishery	01435 830835
Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP Greenacres Farm Fishery	07730 066088
Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden TN27 8EH Hartley Lands Fishery	07933 934942
Swattenden Lane, Cranbrook TN17 3PS	07703 825064
Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	01580 753813
Horam Manor Fishery Horam Manor Farm Horam TN21 0JB 01323 840889 /	07707 759364
Iden Wood Fishery Coldharbour Lane Iden, Rye TN31 7UT 01797 280180 /	07906 232225
Knightingales Fishery Stone-In-Oxney, Near Tenterden TN30 7HA	07941 176205
Latchetts Lakes Tanyard Lane	
Furners Green, Uckfield TN22 3RL 07517 646299 / Mousehole Lakes Maidstone Road	07793 654174
Nettlestead, Near Paddock Wood ME18 5HR Orchard Place Farm Fishery Pearsons Green Road	07725 783405
Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6NY	01892 838576
Sandwich Lakes Coarse Fishery, Sandwich Ash Road Near Canterbury CT3 2DA	07936 409912
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Tricklebrook Fishery Colts Hill, Five Oak Green TN12 6SH	07743 955812
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Reynolds Place, West Green, Crawley RH11 7HB	01293 521186
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	01797 302889
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New Road, Sheerness, Kent ME12 1HA	01795 661089
South London Angling Centre	0200 052 4451
286 Lee High Road, London SE13 5PJ	0208 852 4451
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211 Seaside Road, Eastbourne BN22 7NP	01323 731388
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Chris Pagan **07429 655237** / Steve Potter **07935 268174**

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Linton Angling Society Jason Tuckey on **07983 569220**

or email: lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk

North Sussex Piscatorials email:northsussexpiscatorials@gmail.com

Parish Lane, Pease Pottage, Sussex RH10 5NY Tonbridge & District A & FPS

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