

APRIL 2019

FRESHWATER INFORMER

No. 269

f

FREE

Ben Hobden - 21lbs Orchard Place Farm



Louie-Martin Lyttle



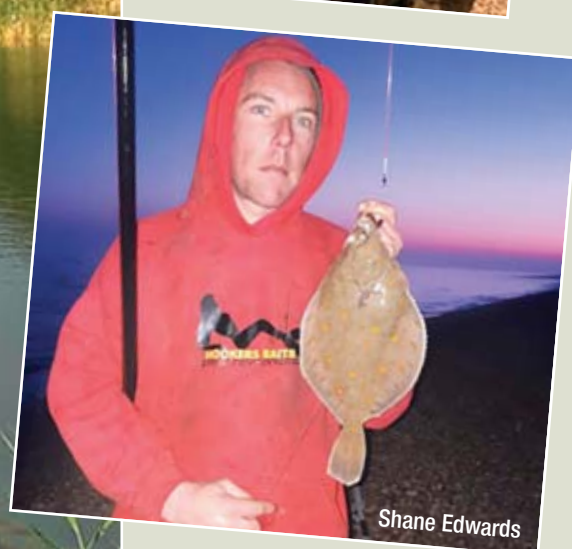
Jason Craven 3lbs 2ozs Tricklebrook



Cinder Hill



Darren Apps - East Sussex water



Shane Edwards



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

Well, where did that last month go to! I cannot believe that March seemed to dissolve in front of our eyes! However, April is now with us and we can begin to plan for the coming months with a little more certainty. The weather in March curtailed many fishing outings with one storm after another whistling across the region. Although the winds and at times heavy rain were not favourable, it did at least cause the air pressure to drop and the fish responded. I was fortunate to receive many catch reports and have tried to get as many as possible in this month's magazine. Unfortunately, space is not unlimited, so my apologies if your catch photo has not appeared. It has been really nice to receive more junior photos this month and hopefully, given the Easter holidays happening in April, more young anglers will be out on the banks and beaches looking for their first catch of the year.

March 15th saw the Closed Season come in to force and it was good to receive a number of catch reports from anglers making the most of the last precious days. I will keep the River Informer section of the magazine running during the Closed Season and post articles from our regular contributors. Perhaps your business might like to become a sponsor for the River Informer? Your banner or logo would appear at the top of the section each month for a year at a very reasonable cost. Why not give me a call and have a chat?

By the time this edition hits the shelves, The Big One Show 2019, will have happened. I hope that I would have had the opportunity to say 'hello' to many of you who visited the show this year. Although I am not directly selling anything, the shows are a great means of meeting with readers and enjoying a chat. I do appreciate your feedback and your time and I am always ready to listen to your views.

The Essex venture is going well. Although early days, the magazines are going down well and this issue contains Essex content to make it more relevant to readers in the county. If you have any Essex news, catch reports or something you feel we should know about, please do get in touch!

The March issue saw a different layout on the front cover. A number of people have spoken to me about it and everyone seems to approve! With that in mind, we have a similar front cover for you this month. The 'montage' of images provides at a glance what the magazine is all about and the variety of disciplines that it covers. I guess you could call it an index in pictures!

If you have a view on this or any other parts of the Freshwater Informer, please let me know. All the contact points are given below.

Enjoy your fishing, Barry Reed



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Letter to the Editor

"Hi, my name is Joshua Johnson and although this 8lbs 6oz common isn't the biggest fish to come out of Hawkhurst Fish Farm's Quarry Lake, I got asked to send in the picture due to the fact that I got stitched up by my fishing buddies for a mate's birthday. They said they would all be in fancy dress and it was only me that turned up in costume! So, perhaps it is worth a place in the magazine to show that carp anglers don't always take things so seriously whilst enjoying their sport?"

Kind regards, Joshua



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Fishery Reports

Elphicks Fisheries Horsmonden, Kent

NORTH LAKE is still producing in these late winter months. Alex Shipley had a common at 28lb and 2 mirrors at 31lb and 38lb. Brian Fortt had 2 commons at 28lb, 32lb and 2 mirrors at 32lb, and 38lb. Dan Arnold had a 40lb mirror, R Porter had a 20lb mirror and a 37lb common. Reece Constable had mirrors at 33lb, 33lb, 34lb, 35lb and commons at 29lb, 37lb, 41lb, 43lb. Anthony Ferguson had a 31lb mirror and 2 commons at 31lb, 35lb. Ray Palmer had mirrors at 26lb and 33lb, Chris Fuller had 4 mirrors at 22lb, 33lb, 35lb, 42lb.



Alec Shipley



Alec Shipley

PLANTATION LAKE has not seen much angling action since we opened. Alex Shipley had 3 mirrors at 15lb, 34lb, 35lb.



Alec Shipley



Alec Shipley

PRAIRIE LAKE is producing now. Glen Wood had 2 mirrors 26lb, 33lb, Teddy Tahir had 2 commons 27lb, 28lb, Roger Farmer had a 21lb common, Lee Marshal had 4 mirrors at 22lb, 24lb, 25lb, 27lb, George Moultrie had a 27lb mirror.

Teddy Tahir 28lb
Prairie Lake 02.19George Moultrie
27lb 8oz Prairie Lake
03.19

SANDWICH LAKE is producing carp to pva bags and a small method feeder. Silvers are coming out on bread and maggots. Mr Excellent is still taking carp off the top, and Mike Harrington had carp at 3lb, 6lb, 9lb, 10lb.

KETTLES LAKE has been fishing a little harder this past month. Ricky Ben had a 15lb common. Clinton Cole had 2 mirrors 16lb and 20lb. Kieran Smith had carp 12lb to 21lb. Robert Jones had 6 carp to a PB 23lb 7oz. Simon Long carp to 11lb, and 5 tench to 5lb.

PULLENS LAKE has still produced fish through January. Perry Alabaster had 2 mirrors at 34lb, 35lb, and a 32lb common, Colin Page had mirrors at 26lb, 29lb, and a pb at 41lb.

WEST END LAKE has fished slow these past months. Karl Lighting had a 33lb mirror. David Grey had a 36lb 4oz mirror.

Mark Tipping 30lb 2oz
Plantation lake
02.19Colin Page 41lb 4oz
Pullens 03.19Anthony Benge
Pullens 03.19Anthony Benge
Pullens 03.19

Jimmys Lake Corringham, Essex

Graham Bell sent me this report from Jimmy's Lake in Essex: 'Catfish Pro team had a recent session with 30 cats to 52lb at Jimmy's lake on red Devils.'



Oak Lakes Fishery Southminster, Essex

Michael Tyrell
23lbs

Tom - 32lbs

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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.

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Fishery Reports

Tricklebrook Fishery Five Oak Green, Kent



Andrew 18lbs



Andrew 29lbs



Colin 37 + Maple



Colin 37 + Maple



Logan



Logan



Mikey 23lbs



Logan



David Kingsman



Sam Springett 23lbs



Sam Springett 27lbs

Tanyard Fisheries Uckfield, East Sussex

COARSE LAKE 1 - Robert had a good day landing three common carp under 10lb and two Bream of 5lb and 7lb. **Mike** landed two Perch of 2lb and 2lb 3oz also three Bream of 5lb, 7lb and 4lb.

COARSE LAKE 2 - Chris and his son had a good session catching five Common Carp under 10lb and four Bream all under 5lb. **Stephen** landed three Carp, one Mirror and two Common all under 10lb. **Ian** came for an afternoon session and landed four Common Carp up to 12lb and two Mirror Carp of around 7lb all on sweetcorn. **Lee** landed three Common Carp and two Mirror Carp using spicy pepperoni.

COARSE LAKE 3 - Tom caught a nice Koi Carp weighing 11lb 4oz using sweetcorn and maggots. **Eric Blowes** enjoyed a good session landing a total of twenty four fish including five Bream to around 3lb and various Carp ranging from 3lb to 14lb using sweetcorn. **Mike** enjoyed a Sunday afternoon landing four Carp, three Mirror Carp and one Common Carp all around 7lb using maggots.

SPECIMEN LAKE 1 - Mikey Lambert landed a nice Pike using Sardines. **Trevor** spent the afternoon using lures and landed a nice 14lb Pike. **Joe** landed two Pike of 8lb and 9lb using dead bait.

SPECIMEN LAKE 2 - Daniel Reed landed a 31lb 2oz Common Carp using maggots. **Hayley McConnell** had a good weekend session landing an 18lb 8oz Common Carp followed by a 26lb 6oz Common Carp.



Daniel Reed



Mikey Lambert



Hayley McConnell



Hayley McConnell

SPECIMEN LAKE 3 - Barry Ingram landed a hat earning 68lb Catfish, then came back the following week and landed a 58lb Catfish. **Mikey Lambert** had his first time on Specimen Lake 3 and landed a 46lb 9oz Catfish using dead bait sprats. **Stuart Carey** landed this lovely 28lb 11oz Mirror Carp.



Mikey Lambert

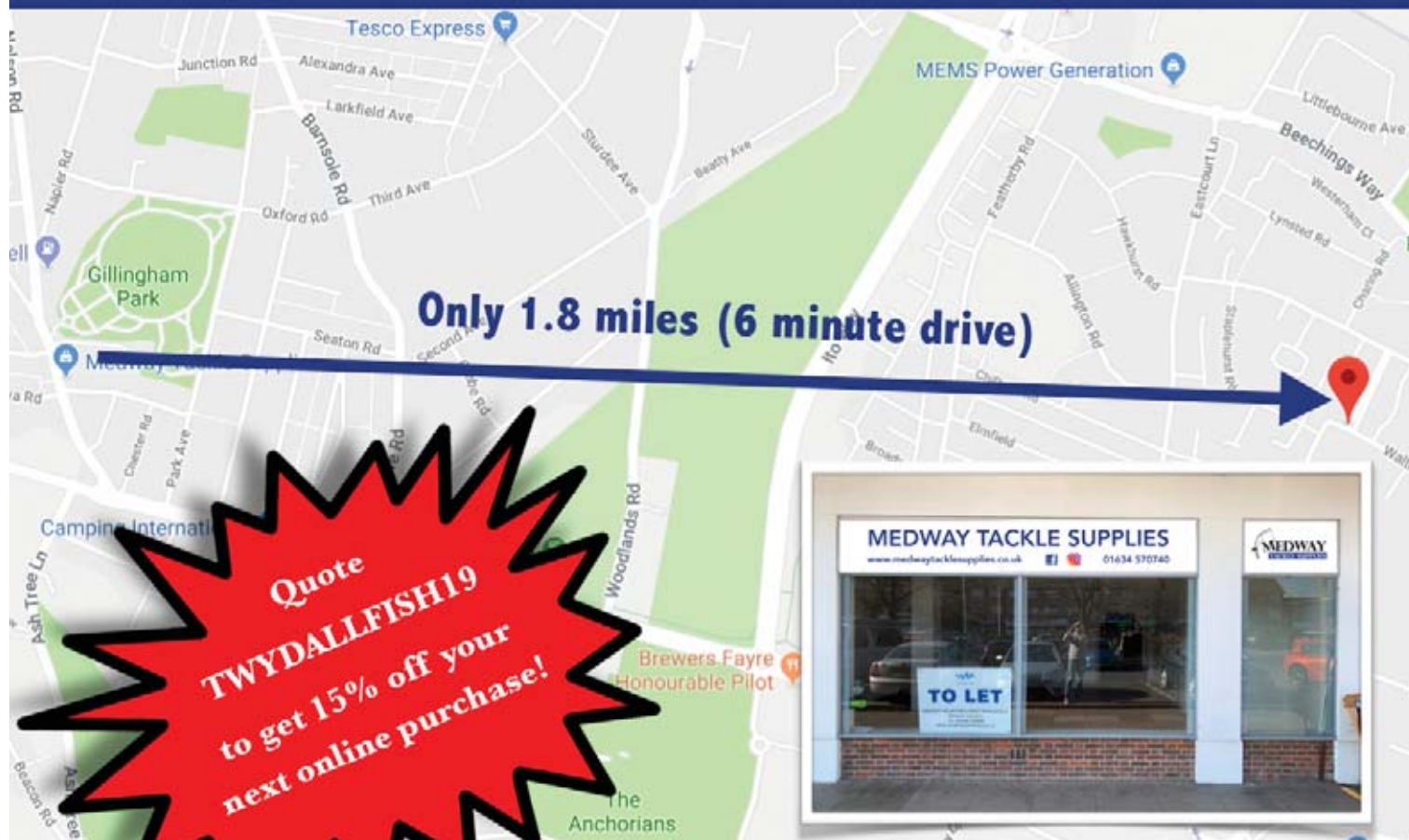


Stuart Carey



Barry Ingram

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**MEDWAY
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Fishery Reports

Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hawkhurst, Kent

The reappearance of a more attractive surrounding has started to grace us, the daffodils are standing tall, our plant life is springing back to life and our collection of exotic wildfowl have begun pairing off ready for nesting. Hawkhurst Fish Farm is looking forward to seeing what the months ahead can produce. The fish have really started waking up these past few weeks and there have been some stunning catches landed on all our lakes.

MAIN LAKE - **Stuart Bennet** caught a scale perfect 15lb 2oz Common from the bridge swims. **Chris Williams** landed a stunning 18lb 6oz Linear from peg 3. **Ronnie Platt** netted a beautiful 25lb 1oz Linear at 4am on a night session and also had a 17lb Common a few hours before, both caught on Pacific Tuna boilies. **Toni** sent in a catch report via Instagram, telling us she managed to nab a scale perfect Common during the last legs of her day ticket after casting to a show. It was caught on Armoury baits marine boilie. **Adam Gevaux** caught a 45lb Catfish and 30lb Catfish from peg 14 on a night session. **Andrew Frankland** had a great session fishing from the back bank, he netted a 28lb 2oz Common and 44lb Catfish. **Chris Williams** landed a stunning 18lb 6oz Linear from peg 3.



44lb Catfish - Main Lake - Andrew Frankland



30lb Catfish - Main Lake - Adam Gevaux



15lb 2oz Common - Main Lake - Stuart Bennet



25lb 1oz Linear - Main Lake - Ronnie Platt



34lb 6oz Mirror - Dove Lake - Brian McPherson



18lb 6oz Linear - Main Lake - Chris Williams

DOVE LAKE - **Brian McPherson** smashed his **PB** when he landed a 34lb 6oz mirror carp from swim no. 3. Sadly the image was not great as Brian was fishing on his own. **Tom Marshall** has done a couple of sessions on Dove Lake this month, on his first session netting a 23lb Common and a 21lb 5oz Common on his second session. **Colin Wood** caught a lovely 28lb Common from swim 6 on a weekend session.



SPECIMEN LAKE - David Gravelling had a great session when only half way through his session he had already landed three fish; a 34lb 12oz Mirror, and two Catfish, weighing in at 36lb and 45lb 12oz.



28lb Common - Dove Lake - Colin Wood



34lb 12oz Mirror - Specimen Lake - David Gravelling



45lb 12oz Catfish - Specimen Lake - David Gravelling



36lb Catfish - Specimen Lake - David Gravelling

QUARRY LAKE - Josh Johnson sent in his catch report after being stitched up by his fishing buddies and fishing in fancy dress! He sent in a photo of a lovely 8lb 6oz Common he had caught. Greg fished in windy conditions and landed 4 fish including a lovely 9lb 1oz ghost carp. Adam and Scott had a good session landing 12 carp between them and losing 2.

Remember to keep an eye on our website, facebook page and Instagram for more updates, just search 'Hawkhurst Fish Farm'.



9lb 1oz Ghost carp - Quarry Lake - Greg Bowles



8lb 6oz Common - Quarry Lake - Josh Johnson

New stock at Hawkhurst Fish Farm!

It is a pleasure to announce that after extensive maintenance carried out this winter we have **added new stock** to Main Lake, Dove Lake and Specimen Lake. All new carp are farmed fish from our own stock lakes between 20lb-40lb in excellent condition.

Stocking not complete at time of print but photos will be put on our facebook page and FWI May edition. Expected stocking of 10 in Dove Lake, 10 in Specimen Lake and 20 in Main Lake.



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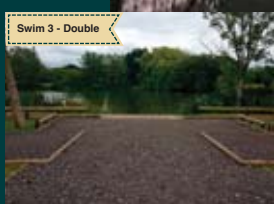
Swim 2



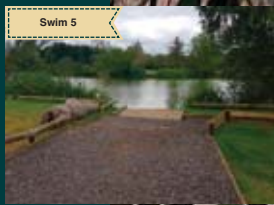
Swim 21



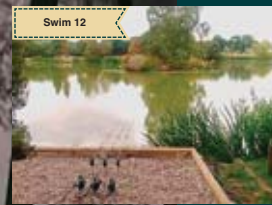
Swim 3 - Double



Swim 5



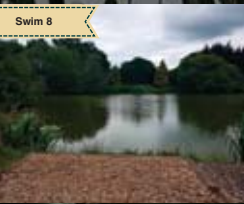
Swim 12



Swim 6 - Double



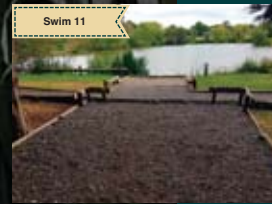
Swim 7



Swim 8



Swim 11



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Fishery Reports

Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey



PLEASE NOTE :- To fish Snipe Lake, Tuscany Lake or Daughters Lake there are certain tackle requirements in force. Please call or look on our website at beaverfarmfishery.co.uk Well, it seems like the fish are waking up now. The weather has turned for the better apart from the gales we are currently having as of writing this report. The new stock we put into Daughters Lake and Snipe Lake are now making a show. Well done to the following anglers.

SNIPE LAKE has been producing well with plenty being banked. **Steve White** as smashed it again landing commons of 15-12, 20-04 and 23lb and mirrors at 12-12, 14lb, 15lb, 16-06, 22-10, 26-04 and 31-12, **Billy Barton** had a mirror of 18-04, **Darren Pease** landed stumpy tail at 19-07 while his mate **Graham Miller** had 3 PBs in one afternoon, a 23-03 mirror, a 23-13 common and then a 25-07 common which won him Fish of the Month and then **Tom Miller** landed a 25-08 common. **Simon Gore** banked his 1st Snipe carp with a 19lb mirror, **Chris Edland** landed his 1st carp from Snipe Lake which was a English **PB** mirror of 30-09 and then a 15lb common, **Callum Everest** had a common of 19-06 and mirrors at 15lb and a **PB** of 32lb, **Connagh Hoade** banked a 22-08 common and a beautiful mirror at 24-12 while **Hayley McConnell** banked a mirror of 18-04.

TUSCANY LAKE has seen cats start to be banked, **Chris Jones** had the 1st cat of the year at 46-04, **Mick Taylor** had one at 18lb,



Darren Pease 19-07 Snipe



Hayley McConnell 18-04 Snipe



Steve White 31-12 Snipe



Tom Miller Snipe 25-08



Connagh Hoade 24-12 Snipe



Antony Gunn 48-14



Chris Jones 1st Cat 2019 46-04



Steve Dear 47-10



Simon Mercer 38lb

Peter Mew landed one at 53-04, **Richard Griffith** had one at 46-08, **Antony Gunn** banked one at 47-10, **Steve Dear** landed one at 47-10, **Simon Mercer** did well on an afternoon session when he banked a cat of 38lb and **Lawrence Atwell** had 2 at 36lb and 48lb.

JEFF'S LAKE has been as usual the go to place for a bit of small fish action. We have seen plenty of F1's banked, some ghosties and commons as well as green and golden tench. The 1st Open Match of the year results were 1st place **Harry Haggett** with 36lb 12oz, 2nd was **Richard Williams** with 32lb 12oz and 3rd was **Barry Horsnell** with 31lb 8oz.

MOAT POND has mainly been producing small carp to about 6-7lb. Well done to **Keith Attwood** who banked 5 carp to 5-08 and then came back and banked 6 carp to 6-05 and **Nick Burley** who had 3 carp to 5-10.

DAUGHTERS LAKE has started to produce some nice fish, Ben and I have also treated the lake with a blue dye to try and inhibit any algae growth like we had last year which will be an on-going process. Well done to **Darryl Cook** who banked a mirror of 11-11, **Scott Harvey** had a mirror of 9-08, **Mark Boast** had a grassie of 15-07, **Richard Marshall** banked a mirror of 10lb, **Brendan Abram** had mirrors of 11lb and 13lb, **Richard Gibbons** had a good day when he banked 2 mirrors at 10lb and one at 10-02. I even managed to wrinkle out a couple of mirrors at 9-02, 9-14 and a grassie of 15-02.



Mark Boast 15-07 Daughters



Richard Gibbons 10lb 2oz Daughters



Scott Harvey 9-08 Daughters



Darryl Cook 11-11 Daughters

EDEN POND has seen the tench start moving about with a few being banked, **Tyler Walsh** had one of 3-08 and **Jim Masters** had 6 tench to 3-08, 2 carp to 2-08 and bream also.

MAZE LAKE has been invested in this month and we are proud to announce that over 1000 F1's have been stocked into it. We took delivery of the fish from Babylon Fish Farm and they are stunning fish which we are sure will be a great addition to the lake. We have had a few day anglers on there and they have been catching carp to 6lb, bream to over 3lb and silvers too.

MAJORS LAKE has produced a few pike with **Emma Martin** getting a **PB** of 10-08 while partner **Gareth Osmond** had a few pike to 15-15, **Ion Istrate** had a nice mid double pike, **Scott Carter** banked a 19lb mirror, **Ashley Dearlove** had a common of 11-08 and **Terry Edwards** had a couple of good days when he banked 26 bream to 4lb, 2 small ghosties, 3 F1's, and 8lb common and a 10lb mirror.



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 6pm (Winter)
 24 hour C.C.T.V



Monthly Open Matches
 (All Welcome)
 12 Car Parks including
 Disabled Parking
 Match, Corporate and
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 for swims
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 Win a FREE SESSION with
 our Fish of the Month
 Competition

Hartley Lands Fishery

Swattenden Lane, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 3PS

We are a day ticket fishery that offers specimen carp fishing, pleasure / coarse fishing and match fishing across our 6 lakes and 1 pond. All of our lakes are different so we can cater to most anglers. Whether you want big perch, to bag up on carp, to get the bite alarms screaming with lots of doubles or simply sit out for a large carp, we have it all. Our lakes are maintained and managed to the highest of standards creating the best possible fishing environment and experience. Night fishing must be booked with bailiff.

Carp to 41lb+, Tench to 10lb+, Perch to 5lb, Bream to 7lb, Roach to 2lb, Crusian Carp to 2lb 4oz



Instagram

Open: 7am - 7pm summer time & 7am - 5.30pm winter time

Bailiff number: 07703 825064



www.hartleylandsfishery.co.uk

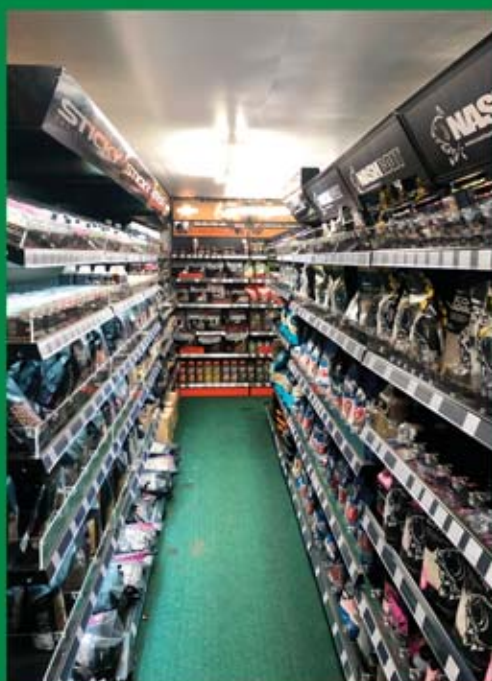


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Fishery Reports

Wylands International AC Battle, East Sussex



Early on in March, Wylands held the final of our winter carp cup on **ROSIES LAKE**. A massive congratulations to **Ken Davis** winning this year with a total of 57lb. Over the winter months, we have been working hard to improve the fishing and stocks in **MIDDLE LAKE**. On pre - open months, the lake seems to be responding very well. We are looking to re-open this lake at the end of March. **HOUSE LAKE** has really woken up this month with multiple carp being caught up to 21lb. Young **Alfie**, holidaying in one of our chalets, has had a fantastic session on Kell landing a 35lb, 32lb and 26lb amongst others. Season ticket holder **Charlie Wilkins** landed his first ever catfish at 45lb on **MAISIES LAKE**. **NEW SPECI** has fished well throughout winter and even more so now the weather is warming up. This lake continues to be very popular. **Matt Ewing** visited Wylands New Spec lake for the first time and left very happy landing a 20lb common, a new **PB** for Matt. **FIELD LAKE** is very popular for the young and old angler alike and can produce several bites, keeping young children entertained.



Iden Wood Fishery



Tel/Fax: Andy Ashdown
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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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East Sussex | TN31 7UT

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Day/ Night
Fishing - No
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Fishery Reports

Hartley Lands Fishery Cranbrook, Kent

BRAMLEY LAKE is starting to wake up and has been fishing well with a PVA bag of pellets and boilies with a few free offerings over the top. **Josh Lawrence** had a 24lb mirror, 20lb common and 15lb fully scaled, **Tommy Onslow** had a 26.8lb common, **Paul Chapman** had a 29lb mirror, Darren Walker had two fish to 25lb, **Andy Ward** had a 35lb mirror.

NICKS LAKE is producing fish all over the lake with Nash Scopex Squid catching a lot of fish. **Marcin Citko** had a 31.12lb common, **Steve Edwards** had a 24.5lb common, **Darren Apps** had a 20lb ghost carp and 19lb common, **Sam Parker** had a 28lb mirror and 29.4lb common, **Harry Hicks** had a 22.5lb common, **Jay Spinx** had a 21.5lb common, 18lb mirror and 18lb fully scaled, John had a 21lb mirror, **Kyle Karping** had a 20lb common.

RESERVOIR LAKE is fishing very well with a lot of the fish being caught up in the water or in the margins. 8ft zig rigs have been catching some of the larger carp in the lake and the carp have started taking floating pellet off the top again. PVA bags in the margin are also producing well and the key is to feed little and often.

PEAR TREE LAKE is producing plenty of fish up to 19lb. People have been finding that fishing tight to the islands is producing the smaller fish and casting 6ft off the island is producing the larger fish. Both float and feeder fishing are working well.

SAMSON LAKE is fishing well with plenty of fish being caught on the float. Fishing high in the water and spraying pellet over the top seems to be the favoured method with banded pellet on the hook.

FINCHES LAKE is really picking up with the fish starting to move around now. They can be found in the upper layers of the water as Spring approaches.



Typical peg on upper lake.



Fennes Fisheries

Charlies Lakes Ashford, Kent



Nicks Lake



Nicks Lake



Bramley Lake



Fennes Fisheries Braintree, Essex



Alex Baker 15lbs



Danny Mills



Evie Mills



Wayne Duncan



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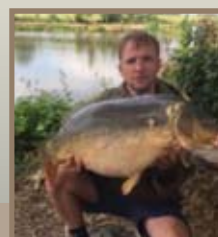
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is just over an acre in size with 5 comfortable barked
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Fishery Reports

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Coarse Fishery

SPECIMEN LAKE 1

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SPECIMEN LAKE 2 3.5 acres

2 rods - £15 per Adult £13 over 65's & Juniors

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Species present in our lakes

- Common Carp up to 45lb • Mirror Carp 43lb+ • Ghost Carp 36lb+
- Grass Carp 32lb+ • Catfish 80lb+ • Tench 8lb+ • Bream 8lb+
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2 BEDROOM - SLEEPS 5



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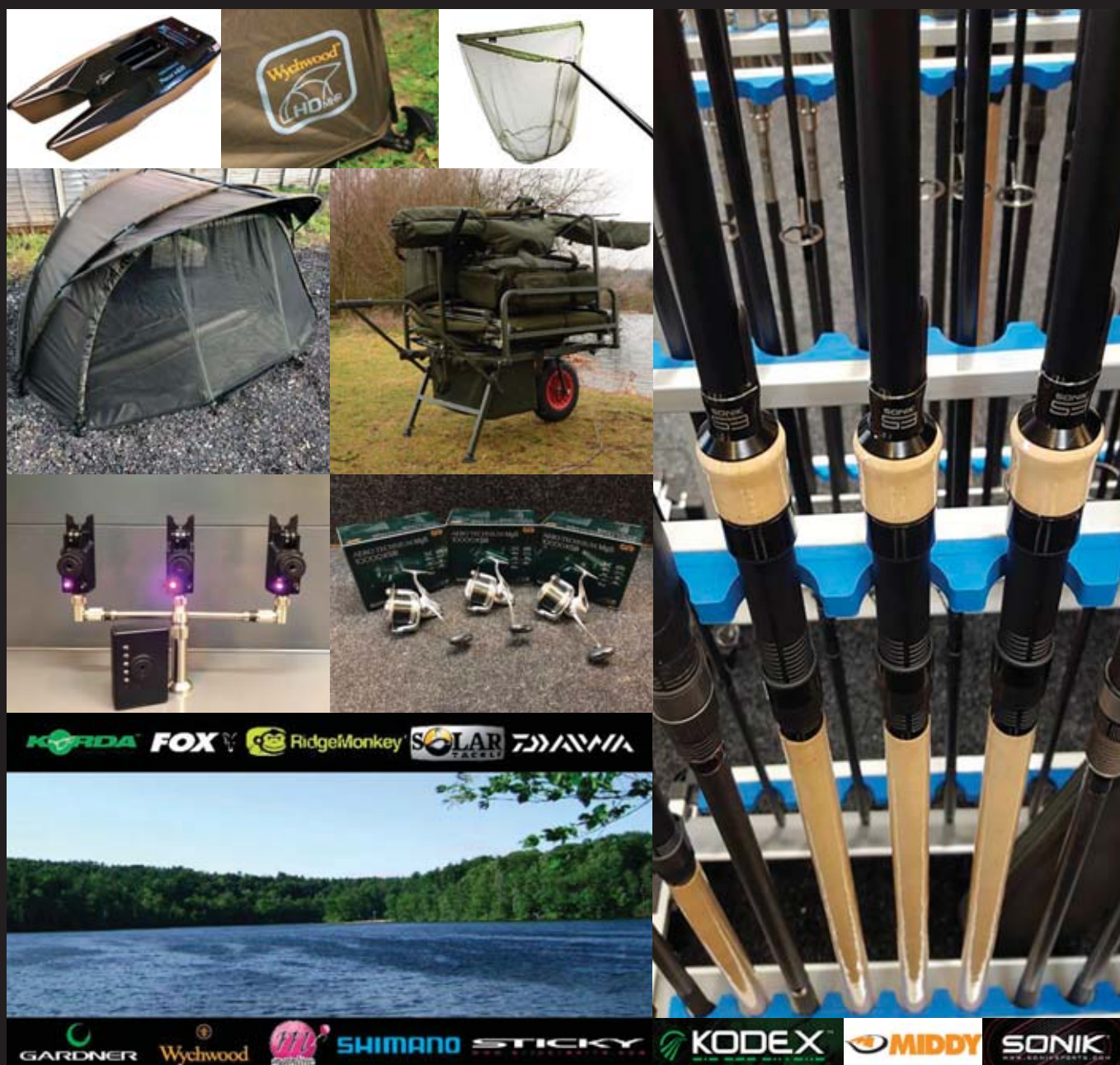
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Each month, Pallatrax will choose from the published photos and pick their winner. **The winner will receive EIGHT packs from the innovative new GRIPZ hook range.**

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To be in with a chance to win this fantastic set of GRIPZ hooks, all you have to do is send us your catch photo via our Facebook message page or email barnic@btinternet.com Entry is FREE and all coarse fish photos are welcome! From a carp to a roach, send us your pictures! Please make sure you tell us where it was caught and it's weight.

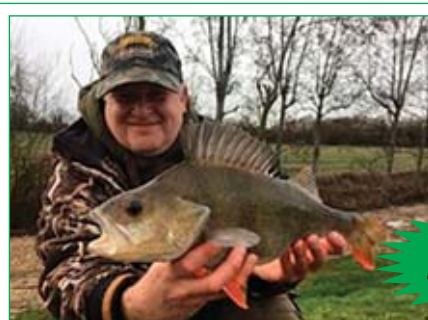


Gripz Fishing Hooks

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!



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Set for MARCH is...
Neal Rodgers**
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WINNER



BEN WREN AT HOUSE LAKE WYLANDS



BILLY HALL 34LBS - CACKLE HILL



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CAROL BRETT AT LOVELACE



CHLOE BEALE 28LBS - THORPE LEA



DAN KENYON AT KNIGHTINGALES



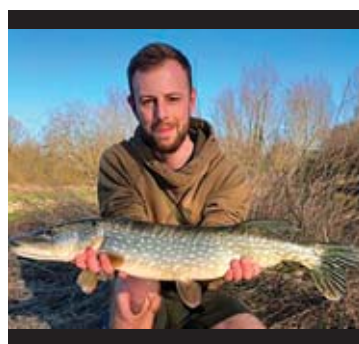
DANIEL NEAVE AT COOMBEWOOD



DANIEL TERRY - RIVER MEDWAY



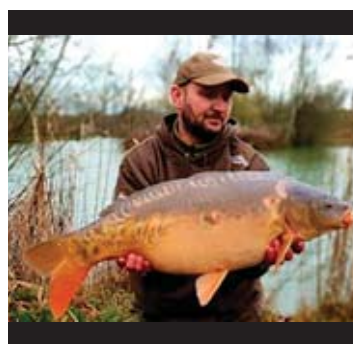
DAVID GRAVELING 35LBS NEW PB AT HAWKHURST



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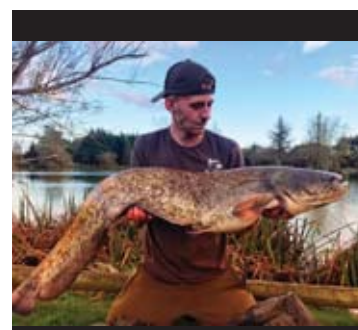
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RYAN JONES 34 LBS - PRIVATE WATER



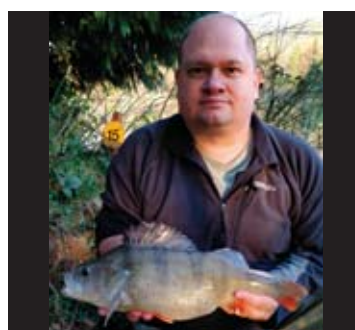
RYAN WEBB 54LBS - HAWKHURST



TONY 35LBS AT ELPHICKS



TYLER CLARKSON AT EUREKA FISHERY, ASHFORD



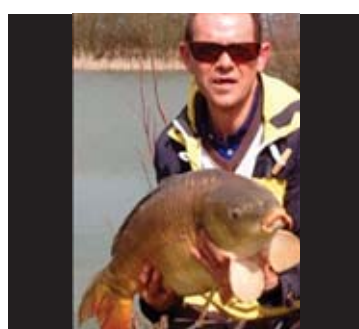
WESLEY STEVENS 3LBS 5OZS - GEDGES LAKES



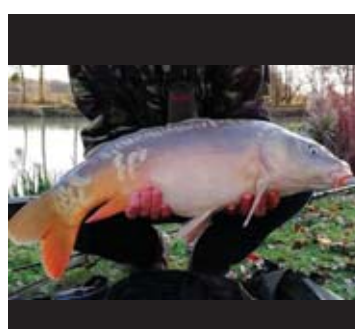
STEVE EDWARDS 24 LBS - HARTLEY LANDS



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JOHN ARTHEY - STRAWBERRY FIELDS



LEE MANGOLD 29LBS AT ELPICKS



LEE PRIOR - EAST KENT WATER



LEE SMITH 37LBS - ELPICKS



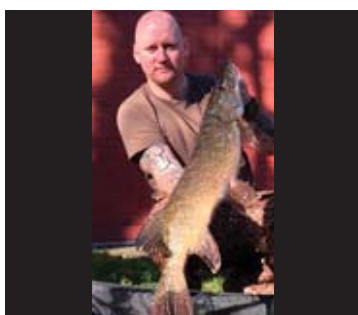
LIAM THORPE - RIVER WANDLE



MARK VINCENT 19 LBS AT MOUSEHOLE



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



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Fishery Reports

Framfield Park Fishery Framfield, East Sussex



SPRING LAKE - Despite a very wet and windy start to March the lake is fishing very well with match and pleasure weights in excess of 100 lbs plus. Pegs in the 40's are producing carp in excess of 15lbs with pegs in the 60's producing the bigger total weights. Best baits are corn, maggot and pellet when fished on the pole at about 10 metres with the bomb coming into its own when fishing hair rigged corn or pellet up against the islands. For quality Perch try worm or maggot close in.

BROOKHOUSE LAKE - Similar methods required on this lake with either end of the lake fishing the best. Try corn or pellet on the pole at 8 metres for quality Carp up to 15 lbs. Maggot feeder also working quite well when fishing just off the islands.

BURYWOOD LAKE - Some good quality Carp to low 20's now showing from pegs on the car park side with pegs behind the island producing good bags of fish when fishing fish flavoured pop ups close to the islands or close to the near bank. Some excellent Grass Carp to 20 lbs showing all round. Feed should be kept to a minimum until the warmer water temperatures arrive.

WEDNESDAY OPEN RESULTS:

Spring Lake

1 Dennis Cooper (Framfield)	90-0-0
2 Nobby Whiteing (Hawthorn)	87-2-0
3 Alan Stewart (Framfield)	45-3-0
4 Keith Harper (Hawthorn)	43-3-0
5 Bob Bradford (Dench MG)	41-1-0

Brookhouse Lake

1 Dennis Cooper (Framfield)	50-12-0
2 Alan Stewart (Framfield)	40-2-0
3 Keith Harper (Hawthorn)	33-2-0
4 Nobby Whiteing (Hawthorn)	28-11-0
5 Lew Nightingale (Framfield)	27-12-0

Spring Lake

1 Nobby Whiteing (Hawthorn)	107-8-0
2 Keith Harper (Hawthorn)	60-4-0
3 Dennis Cooper (Framfield)	48-2-0
4 Alan Stewart (Framfield)	33-2-0
5 Mick Powell (Framfield)	31-1-0

Spring Lake

1 John Mott (Faulkners)	97-5-0
2 Nobby Whiteing (Hawthorn)	92-6-0
3 Lew Nightingale (Framfield)	84-4-0
4 Alan Stewart (Framfield)	48-2-0
5 Bob Bradford (Dench MG)	46-11-0

Gabriels Fishery Edenbridge, Kent

Over this last month, the water here at Gabriels, has changed in appearance from a clear clean looking lake complex to an attractive fishy murky water where the fish are beginning to move about and are now looking for food. Around the edge of the lakes the sedges and reeds are beginning to swell and show signs of newly formed growing points, changing colour to a light green. Roach and rudd are investigating the hatch of early water bugs in the margins and shallow reed beds. Perch have spawned and are now hunting slower moving small fish that may not have recovered from the cold winter waters where they would have had to rely upon their own reserves and the long period of dormant shoaling. March brought with it strong winds and cold rain showers making it unpleasant to stay on the bank without a bivvy for protection and somewhere to enjoy that cup of hot tea. Those that braved the conditions and fished on Oak Lake, caught common carp 8 and 11lbs in the morning, 17lb and 22lbs in the afternoon. Into the early morning on Oak, before day break, 25 lbs and 27 lbs mirror and common carp were landed on the bank. On Admiral Lake the pattern has been repeated with 25 lbs and 28 lbs carp on the bank. Please note from 1st April our prices for fishing have changed. Please see our website or Facebook page for more details.

Our campsite opens at Easter, bringing with it the perfect chance to escape with the whole family. With two camping areas available there's plenty of room to relax, fish or use it as a base to explore the surrounding areas.

When you catch a fish here at Gabriel's Fishery, please record the moment with a photograph and send as much information about the fish and your experience of landing it to our email address or post to our Facebook page.



Elphicks Fisheries



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



Elphicks Fisheries Spelmonden Road
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Tel: **01580 212512**

email: **info@elphicks-fisheries.co.uk**



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8am to 1pm

Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society

New Lagoon bailiff, Bill Milton has been enjoying some excellent fishing with the large silvers of late. Bill has had several good Roach over the 1lb mark and a few Rudd to 1lb 12oz. Maggot and bread fared best although the biggest Rudd came on luncheon meat. One of the venue's regular anglers **Mick Green**, has been enjoying good sport with the Carp, catching some of the stockies which are coming on well now. The Tench are also doing very well, as most visitors are catching several of these on each trip to around 3lb. Bream also to 4lb being caught. **Jason Craven** had a nice Roach of 1lb 12oz plus several others to around the 1lb mark.

The most notable catch this month was that of **Ian Seamer**, who weighed in a stunning 26lb 5oz Pike caught on Mackerel. The fish gave a really good account of itself and Ian was mightily pleased when he slid the net under it as he realised only one hook had set just in the scissor. A lovely carp caught by **Robert Brown Jr** at the Old Ballast Pit and this year's biggest Carp from Barden Lake at 50lb 8oz caught by **Vince**.

COACHING The Society is now taking bookings for Coaching sessions on the New Lagoon. If any individuals or groups would like information, please either e-mail via the Society website or call 07974488040. The first session is already booked for a dozen ten year olds who are having the session as part of a birthday celebration. Food can also be arranged.

OPEN DAY This year's Open Day will be on Saturday 17th August from 10.00am. This will be held on the New Lagoon.

A.G.M This year's A.G.M will be held on Saturday 17th May at the Longmead Football Ground, Tonbridge. Details will be in our yearly newsletter.

MATCH RESULTS

Winter Peg Down - Sportsground
17th February 2019

- 1st - Mick Smith 4lb 6oz (Golden Peg £140)
2nd - Stuart Cottingham 3lb 4oz
3rd - Tony Hyland 1lb 12oz

Pairs Match - Hartlake Down
3rd March 2019

- 1st - Peter Hole & Roger Trask - 11lb 13oz
2nd - Mick Smith & Larry Howard - 5lb 10oz
3rd - Stuart Cottingham & Martyn Hill - 5lb 7oz



Bill - 1lb 12oz Rudd



Cravo - Roach



Robert Brown



Mick Green - Carp



Rob Brown - 50lbs



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River Informer

Welcome to the River Informer!

The Closed Season is now upon us and the rivers can now be left to rest and rejuvenate in time for June. I have been really encouraged by the response from readers to the River Informer section in it's very short season here in the magazine! However, I will continue to run the section as I'm sure there will still be plenty to report on! We have lots of readers' reports this month as many made the most of the final weeks of the season. Hope you enjoy this month's River Informer and please keep and news and articles coming in during the coming weeks.

COLIN REPORTS FROM THE SUSSEX OUSE

Colin Etherington has has some terrific fish from the Sussex Ouse and we have reported on his success both here in the magazine and on the Facebook page. Colin has been making the most of the weeks before the Closed Season takes effect and this is how he has done:

"After a difficult day on Wednesday with only a chub to show for my efforts tonight was a different story! Within 40 minutes of an evening session I had two barbel 9lb 4oz and 4lb 4oz! Both fish falling to lobs. I was tacking Haywards Heath and District Angling Society controlled section of the Sussex Ouse at the Sloop Weir Pool."



"A short session this morning on the Sussex Ouse at East Mascalls resulted in an awesome barbel weighing 12lb 6oz!! It fell to 3 lob worms that were lowered into the pool in darkness just under the weir sill ... it fought like a Trojan and to say I'm delighted is an understatement!!!"



"I nipped down the Sussex Ouse after work for a couple of hours and had this stunning chub weighing 5lb 4oz! Again this one fell to lob worms with an attached pva mesh stocking with pellets. It tore off after being hooked and I thought initially I was into a barbel! Well happy."



RIVER WANDLE CARP FOR LIAM

Hi Barry, I had this great fish from a short few hours on the River Wandle fishing at Ravensbury Park. I had only walked a few metres along the bank but I was soon running back again due to a belting take and I might have lost my rod had I not been using a baitrunner reel! Anyway, it was a great fight with the fish jumping out of the water a good couple of times but soon after it was in my net. I was a bit unprepared having not bought scales but I would say the fish was around 10-12lb. However, when they look like this and caught from where it was, it really doesn't matter. It fell to a spicy sausage 10mm pellet topped with a piece of fake corn cast mid river and a light scattering of 4mm pellets. This was my first ever time fishing a river so I consider myself very lucky!



Phil Cowley-Jones celebrated his birthday in fine style!

"I had a productive morning session on a drainage ditch down on the marshes at the back of Appledore, 9lb 11oz and a lovely 14lb 14oz pike.

Great to be catching the last lumps of the season in such fine weather!"



DEAN FINDS THE STOUR PIKE!

Dean Creasey done a few hours deadbaiting on the River Stour near Canterbury resulting in these three pike, all taken on trout.



NEW PB CHUB FOR ROBERT!

This report came in from Robert Petters on the Facebook page:

"Hi guys. New PB chub for me from the River Medway. Simple ledgered boillie did the trick. Weighing 5lb 6oz, it beat my previous PB by about 2lb!"





A Countryman's View

Jim is the Head Bailiff for the Sussex Ouse Angling Society and Field Officer for the Ouse and Adur River Trust.

I have had many people email and message on the Facebook page to say how much they are enjoying Jim's articles with many saying how they now have another perspective to being outside in Nature. I can also tell you that Jim is delighted in being able to write about his many experiences on the riverbank, past and present, knowing that they are being so well received!

"Talk about a contrast in our climate from 'The Beast from the East' last year to the glorious weather we have had in February! It was nice to see a good amount of rainfall to top up the dykes and rivers and after last year's February and March weather, when fishing was 'difficult' to say the least, we are now experiencing some milder weather conditions. However, the often frosty starts and low overnight temperatures have confused the wildlife a little! The hazel catkins were out very early along the hedge bottoms in the Lower Valley. Alexanders apparently gave this plant the Latin name 'Smymolium Olusatrum' and it was used as a fodder plant for animals and humans! The buds, stems and leaves were all used in recipes dating back to medieval times and even used in a fish pie, although I have never tried it! However, it is the first to show bright green in the hedge bottoms and wet spots on chalky ground.

While out walking in early February, I discovered some primroses in a sheltered spot along with a pair of mallards on a small pond. Some early bluebells were pushing up in the woodland due to the mild daytime temperatures, it must be time to get the rod out now we have some sunshine!

On a sheltered ditch, early yellow calendine was appearing and high above a flight of nine cormorants who were heading north to possibly Weirwood or Ardingly reservoirs. Among the riverside Alders there were lots of small birds including a pair of Goldfinch and an unusual number of blue tits. Field Fares and Redwings were busy looking for the last of the berries. As usual a robin approaches, no doubt after a maggot or two from a friendly fisherman. I stood and watched as an angler had quite a fight with a decent pike he had caught on a dead bait. He did not have any scales with him, but, I guess it was around 15lbs and in excellent condition. I also saw a number of sea trout kelt on their way back to the sea. One was caught on a red maggot and safely returned.



Hazel Catkins



Calendine



Goldfinch

It's a good walk in sunny weather and all the signs are that things are starting to wake up. I must get my rods out and make the most of the last few days of the season! The Closed Season from March 15th to June 15th provides a welcome break to our rivers and, in my opinion, needs to be retained as I have mentioned in previous articles. I did have a go at the chub with lobworm and prawn and had some success. Although nothing big, the outing was enjoyable in the sunshine and I had a robin for company!

I notice that the Winterbourne is running well and this means that the water level

is good and in the Chalk Downs around Lewes many other small streams are running out from the chalk into the Ouse via the Bevern. While wandering, I notice the tell tale signs on the bank that a seal has recently visited and a little further on I find the culprit on some rocks but on hearing me approaching he makes a hasty retreat back in to the water! We occasionally see the odd grey seal come beyond Lewes in the winter months, no doubt looking for shelter and an easy meal! We did have one that took up residence on a pontoon and was kept under the watchful eye of local people! During that walk I saw a small number of mullet along with a kingfisher on the Delve Ditch. The warm weather had brought an egret who was working it's way along the ditches and a short eared owl was sitting on a fence post watching the proceedings with interest! For such a mild day in February, it was a joy to see butterflies out and out first was the yellow Brumstone feeding on Buckthorne. There was also a lot of Blackthorn out which caused me to remember the saying 'Beware Blackthorn winter!' The saying refers to the fact that the wind can suddenly swing back round to the North East and provide a rather biting cold spell, so we must wait and see.



Blackthorn

I always know where non – angling visitors have walked as litter is so often left. On a recent walk, I found wine bottles and containers from a famous London store. I cannot understand why people leave their litter in the countryside and not take it away with them after enjoying the riverside walks! I always believe that you should leave an area how you would like to find it!

I am often asked what I believe is the greatest threat to the Ouse and other local rivers. In my opinion, I feel it is the over abstraction of water and pollution, in particular from unmanned sewage works. With so much development happening in

this area, such little thought seems to be given to the water supply and disposal side of growth. I find it a real worry, as after being a River Bailiff for over fifty years I can foresee so many river and environment problems with the building of 1000s of new homes in this already over developed corner of the country. At the moment, the rivers and streams are flowing, but the need to strike the right balance has never been more important!



Early Bee

The bees have also been out in the sunshine buzzing around the crocus and daffodil blooms. I find it fascinating to watch a bee make the delicate manoeuvre to get to the pollen of a crocus. I remember that last year, a neighbour had two bumble bees nests dug out by badgers!

Here is an odd tale of poaching! Many years ago, I was at the Mill Pool at Barcombe early one morning when I noticed a group of oriental people come to the edge of the pool. They began to throw, what I thought were petals, in to the water and I thought they were respecting the memory of a lost member of the family. However, one of the group produced a wreath and I watched from a distance as it was thrown in to the water. Some time later I returned and saw that the wreath was bobbing up and down on the water. A little suspicious, I waded in and retrieved the wreath and discovered that a number of baited hooks on short lengths of line had been attached to the wreath. The reason for the wreath's movement was due to a chub of about 2lbs that had become hooked! I released the fish and took the wreath away. Some time later that day, the group I had seen in the morning returned, no doubt to retrieve their 'memorial'! I went over to them and handed them the deactivated wreath with words along the lines of: "If you are caught again, you will be prosecuted!". I never did see them again!"

Cheerio for now, Jim



Barcombe Mill

Medway Man

Bob Morris



Tench are back on the menu

With the early Spring weather showing signs of improvement, I am really looking forward to getting back into a bit of tench and bream fishing again - having now put away my pike and river rods for their annual break. I have already had a couple of short sessions over the last couple of weeks, just to get

into the right frame of mind for this seasonal switch. These did not go well, in fact I blanked both times, but this has just served to whet my appetite for the new 'positive' spring campaign.



Pike rods away



River rods away

Another reason to be cheerful at this time of the year is the return of all the summer visiting bird life and bankside activity that has been lacking during the last few months or so. I have already spotted a few House Martins and heard a Chiff Chaff so I am keeping my ears to the ground (air) for the other classic sign of Spring the increasingly scarce Cuckoo. All of these events plus many others are a source of much delight to someone like myself - who was much into the study of wildlife even before taking up the rod as a youngster. I can well recall spending many a day tramping around the Plumstead Marshes (near to where we lived at the time) with my young brother Kevin. We had binoculars round our necks and fishing nets strapped to the crossbars of our bikes - to hunt for frogs and newts. In fact, I am sure that it was these early pursuits that eventually kindled my lifelong interest in fishing. We were fascinated by Watervoles (plenty around back then), Snakes, Lizzards, Toads and even Grasshoppers, I seem to recall..

Talking of the wildlife along the waterways, I have to say that having been involved at committee level in the running of RTWAS (Royal Tunbridge Wells Angling Society) for more years than I now care to remember, I realise that this has given me the unique opportunity to witness the evolving situations on the river bank and also on certain still waters that are run by the club.



Tench stocking

As a Tench enthusiast, I will be extremely interested to follow the progress of some tench that we have recently stocked into one of our pools at Buxted park. The proactive approach that the club has adopted, during the last few years in particular, has greatly improved the habitat for fish, fowl, fur, flora and fauna etc, and this, of course, is an ongoing process. We are carrying out a lot of work, on the upper Medway, with advice from the fisheries department of the EA and the SE rivers trust. Much of this is aimed at preventing bankside erosion, removing invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed whilst improving the natural spawning process on our stretches by the introduction of new gravel areas and the maintenance of existing ones. Flow deflectors have also been introduced in certain spots to speed up the current, oxygenate the water, move the silt on and help to keep the gravel beds clean. This involvement with the running of the club actually takes on a sort of life of its own, that is



RTWAS installing new gravels on upper Medway

quite separate from the fishing itself, and I can honestly say that although I often go right through the Summer without casting a line



Stocking chub & barbel into Medway

on the river, I am always extremely interested in what is happening there and what we can do to improve the situation on our stretches. Just knowing that you have helped to do something positive for the environment on a regular basis is a real buzz. It is also a really great feeling, I find, to land and hold a good double figure barbel for instance, that you yourself had a hand in stocking into the river (as a ten inch fish) at least a decade ago - it adds a different dimension to it.



Here's one I stocked earlier

I seem to have too many waters to fish and not enough time to do it! I am sure that this is not an uncommon predicament and will be familiar to many. I think that I have said this before but although I can get a bit obsessed with cracking a certain water, that I have made my target, I am trying to force myself to be a bit more flexible and not bash my head against a venue if it is not producing the goods. For this reason my plan, once again, is to have no plan for this coming Summer season. If I can stick to this, I might even just get to fish some of these waters that I have wanted to try for years. After all I am supposed to be enjoying myself!

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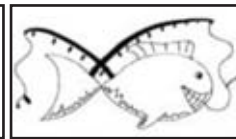
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Hello and welcome to the April edition of Junior Informer!

No doubt you are all looking forward to the Easter holiday and have lots of plans to get out fishing during the couple of weeks away from school. Hopefully, many mums and dads are able to get some time off work and take you to the lakes and beaches in our region. There is certainly plenty of choice. If you fancy fishing somewhere different take a look through the magazine at the many different venues that advertise and provide the latest catch reports. As you will read in those reports, the carp are really beginning to 'wake up' now and looking for something to eat! Easter is very late this year, which hopefully will mean the weather will be better. Having Easter in March often sees 'wintry' conditions that sees many anglers stay away from the fisheries.

Did you manage to have a Spring clean in your tackle box last month? Hopefully you did and all your rigs and bits are ready to go. Don't forget that when you do go fishing, to feed your swim little and often. Try not to be tempted to put lots of bait in at the start of your session. You can always top up the feed, but, you cannot take it out! The fish will now be searching the margins for food, so it is worth trickling in some corn or pellet during your session and every now and then drop your bait in to see what is happening. Carp will often stir up the bottom, so look for signs that the water is cloudy and indicating that the carp are seeking out your bait! The water temperature during April can still be cold, so be aware when choosing your groundbait. You do not want anything with a high fishmeal content as fishmeal is very oily and will congeal in the cold water. You may be better off looking at a more 'sweet' type of groundbait. Carp will still respond to this as will the other species.

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The support of our sponsors listed above makes the Junior Informer possible. If you would like to become a Junior Informer sponsor please 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.

Fishing 4 schools - April Tip of the Month from instructor Rob Goble

Now we are well into Spring and the flora and fauna are bursting into life. Trees are revitalised, standing tall in fresh shades of green. Shrubs and plants are bursting forth, with an ever-changing sky framing the whole picture and of course the grass is growing - that reminds me, I must get the lawnmower out...!

Whilst tidying my garden, my thoughts are by the lake, watching a trout or two moving up-wind, head and tailing, the classic sign of fish feeding on the nymph, high in the water. Another thing comes to mind and that is the dry fly, drifting slowly across a very slight breeze. The dry fly comes in many forms and variations in size and colour, it can mimic or suggest an emerging buzzer or midge, or come to that a few other insects (you might remember I touched upon the buzzer in last month's issue).

This particular fly is called a shuttlecock emerger (see picture right). It is a favourite pattern of mine and if you tie flies you will know how easy this one is to make.



Use a light-weight hook designed for emerging patterns in sizes 14-10. The shank has a short slim body of either rabbit, hare's ear or seal fur substitutes, a double wrap of fine pearl tinsel for the ribbing, (this for a little more strength around the abdomen, as after several fish the ribbing will fray), and three good Cul de Canard (CDC) feathers or plumes for the suggestion of the emerging wing. The fine CDC feather comes from the rear end of a duck and has natural oils for waterproofing and buoyancy.



The idea is that the abdomen of your fly will sit under the water, with the wing (that's the bit we see) on top. When trout are feeding on the emerging buzzer or nymphs of several insects you can have a field day catching. The take is usually very confident, just lift the rod, smartly, into the fish. Use a 6-7 weight fly rod with fly line to match, a taper leader of 9-10 feet tapering down to 6-7lbs breaking strain. Attach the fly, rub on the tippet end or fly end a little of the ledasink (pictured left), to about 18 inches.

You may have to repeat this on several occasions, but

it will take the shine off the line as well as helping it to sink. The idea is to have this short length just under the water with the rest of the line floating above (pictured right).

You can also use a small amount of gink floatant. This is to aid the fly after a while to float high, but only put it on the CDC wing and use the tiniest amount. Too much and you will only sink the fly.



Fishing the fly is straight forward. If there is wind - hopefully not too much, a slight breeze is preferable - cast out from left to right and slightly behind if you are right handed, or vice versa.

Just let the fly drift around, keeping in touch and without too much slack in the fly line. Keep it as natural

as possible. It is a sight fly so it will be absorbing and exciting to see these trout coming up, splashing and swimming around the offering and it will only be a matter of time before you connect.

With the fish netted, your fly needs to be dried. Squeeze it between a piece of absorbent cloth, make a couple of false casts and away you go.

The shuttlecock can be purchased from good tackle shops that supply fly fishing gear or alternatively go on-line. A first class shop I can recommend is the Friendly Fisherman at Tunbridge Wells Kent. They also have a website.

That's all for now.
Have fun and be safe, Bob G.

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The fantastic pack is worth over £20! All you have to do to be in with a chance of winning one of the 'Ready, Steady, Fish' packs is to send your Catch Photo to the Freshwater Informer by email or by message on the Facebook page!



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Amelia Etherington



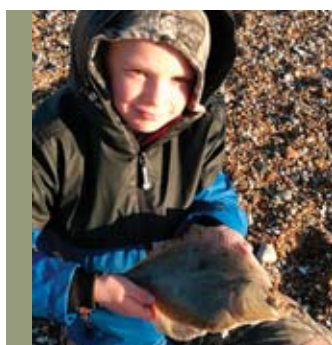
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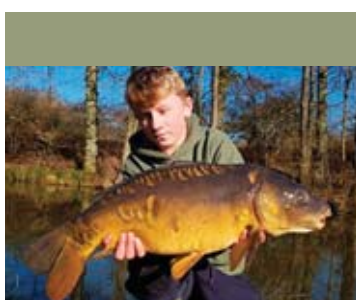
CALLUM AND CADEN AT HARTLEY LANDS



DEVAN AGED 9 WITH HIS FIRST SEA FISH!



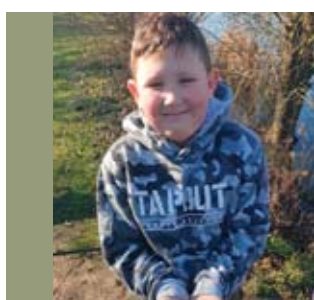
DYLAN AND DAD RICHARD GREEN WITH A DOUBLE TAKE!



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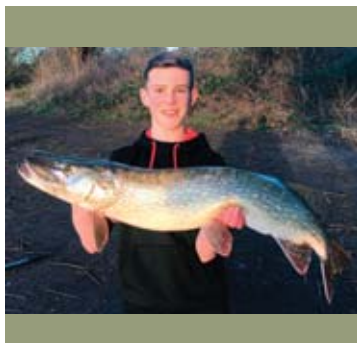
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KADY LAROUCHE



KIERON AT WYLANDS

FISHING FOR SCHOOLS

April Update

Recently our three members of our Kent team - Warren White, Charlie Rayner and Bob Goble - attended a mental health awareness course at the Trevor Gibbens Unit in Maidstone.

Warren White said: "Charlie and I have been working with people with mental health problems for more than 12 years, originally with funding from the Environment Agency and in the past four years through Fishing 4 Schools, where coach Bob Goble has joined us.

"Fishing 4 Schools now works with three mental health and disability groups and this will be expanding out soon with the setting up of a new charity, called Castaway.

"The course was very interesting and informative but the best thing to come out of the day for me was the appearance of one of our past students from the mental health unit who gave a speech on the way his mental health issues affect his life.

"He went on to say, how in recent years angling has played a big part in helping him on the road to recovery and that being outdoors is a good tonic but doing something you love is great therapy.

"Working with people with disabilities and mental health is one of my favourite forms of angling coaching, it is very rewarding, especially when you see the benefits our students get from fishing.

"I felt really proud listening to his speech, it was honest and from the heart."



GREAT EARLY SPRING SESSION FOR ISAAC GREEN!

Isaac Green's dad, Richard, sent in this report from an early Spring Session they had together at a Mid Kent Fisheries venue. Richard told the Informer:

"We got to the lake on a Thursday afternoon of the half term and had a walk around the lake. There was little showing or moving around so we set up on the back of the wind. Although hopeful, nothing had happened in the first three hours, not even a 'line bite'. We decided to move to a swim facing the wind. The rods were set up first and then the bivvy. Isaac's rod went off soon after starting and as he was playing his fish, my rod took off! Both these fish can be seen in the 'double photo'. The night was quiet with one lost fish and a low double. We had a recast in the morning and Isaac had a couple more fish. To end the session, as we were packing up, Isaac's rod went off again and he landed a 16 lbs fish. Pretty good fishing for a nine year old! Very proud of his angling achievements! We were using CC Moore Live System boilies."



Big pike for William!

Andrew Benningfield emailed me this report following a session with his son William:

"It was a beautiful sunny day and it was the last cast of a two day session with my dad Andy and it was my only fish. It was the hardest fight I've ever had from a pike and I've caught two over 20 lbs to date. The pike had spawned so was very lean. It could easily be a 20 with its length and girth. Dad had an 8lb pike also. The fish weighed 18 lbs and was taken on a roach dead bait from Horton Kirby."



Daniel is 'King of the Cats'!

Absolute Tackle at Herne Common gave us this great story from a Dad and Son duo who are customers of their shop. Daniel Holness senior and five year old Daniel junior had a late summer 2018 session at Orchard Place Farm Lake 4.

Daniel junior hooked, played and landed this magnificent 30 lbs 9 ozs catfish on his own, but Dad was there guiding him and waiting with the landing net. The huge catfish was one of three that were almost caught at once and the two smaller ones of 28lbs 4ozs and 24lbs were held in retaining slings until the 'big one' had been landed!



WELL DONE JESSICA!

Darren Moore and daughter Jessica had a fishing session at Newdigate Centre Lake during the half term holiday. It wasn't just dad and daughter who went, but, it was a family day out! Jessica caught the first fish of the day. It was 10lbs and it was the first time she had held a fish that big all by herself! Jessica ended the day with a score of four fish! Her biggest of the day was 11lbs.



WINDY DAY FOR DAA JUNIORS!

"The club's juniors' had their meet today Sunday 10 March on a very windy morning! Nine brave juniors fished Littlestone for not a great reward only catching rockling, however, every one managed to catch. Good to see two new faces at this meet and thanks to all those that fished.

Littlestone Bay



Our next meet is Sun 21st April (yes Easter Sunday so you can bring your easter eggs). Meet at pilot pub car park at 10.40am."

Look forward to seeing you, Terry Carpenter

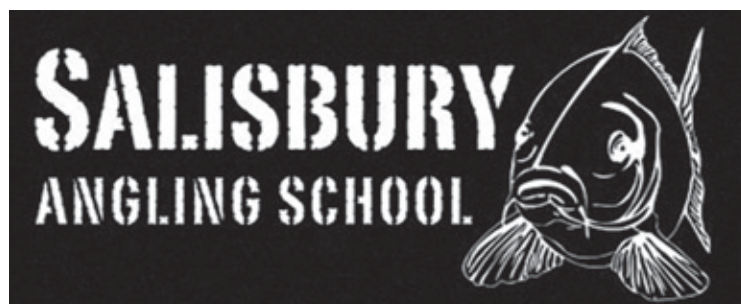
THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT!



Sam Harrison sent in this great report following a night fishing session recently at Orchard Place Farm:

"We had a very scary time as there was a storm blowing! Luie, aged 8, did his first night session on Lake 1 at Orchard Place Farm. He got a lovely 10lb cat fish all on his own with no help apart from the landing net. He also got a carp at 4.30am! Luie totally loved his first night fishing trip. Orchard Place is a lovely venue and has very helpful friendly staff."

A FISHERMAN FOR LIFE



by Michael Salisbury

"I've been fishing for well over 30 years now, and in 2011 I became a fully qualified Level 2 Angling Coach. I'm also a part-time secondary school teacher, and my passion for angling enabled me to introduce it to my school's curriculum, as I was instrumental delivering a BTEC in Fish Husbandry to a selected number of students. I am a regular columnist for Anglers Mail magazine, and a consultant for both Bait-Tech and Kodex Intelligent Tackle.

My main area of expertise is in coarse fishing, specifically specimen carp and wels catfish. In the winter I will tend to dip into predator fishing, helping my clients catch some quality pike and perch.

I'm currently based near Southend-on-sea in Essex, and I have access to a wide range of coarse fishing venues. Whatever your goals are in coarse fishing, I can help you to achieve them.

As an Angling Trust Licensed Coach, I possess DBS clearance, Safeguarding training, Emergency First Aid training, as well as Public Liability and Public Indemnity Insurance. I am also a member of the Professional Anglers Association."

For more information , please visit www.schoolofangling.com or my Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/schoolofangling/>

SPRING UPDATE: "Over the last 2 weeks I have been running junior sessions at Mill Barn Coarse Fishery in Great Wakering. Despite some very challenging conditions, the participants have caught numerous carp into double figures. The winning tactic has been to use 10mm Bait-Tech The Juice dumbbells, with a small PVA mesh bag of 6mm carp feed pellets nicked onto the hook."

As you can see from the photos, the young anglers had a great time and done really well!



READERS CATCH REPORTS

Gorgeous Mirror for Ben Hobden!



Ben Hobden had a recent session at Orchard Place Farm Fishery near Paddock Wood and sent us in this report.

"I turned up at the fishery around 7.30 on a Saturday morning to a very foggy lake! Things looked rather bleak. No one on Lakes 1 and 2 had caught overnight. I decided to try a different approach on my spots. It worked as I had my first fish within 45 minutes.

On two of my rods, I decided to use maggots and as I was changing rigs, I had another take from the first spot from a fish of 16lbs. Two hours later a third fish of 19lbs was caught. The best method was critically balanced corn over particle. I was using Nash Scope 10' rods with Daiwa Tournament reels loaded with 12lbs Korda Subline. Rigs were constructed with Dragon Carp 25lbs braid and a size 8 Korda Kamacuda hook. The maggots were mounted on a clip and the particle mix consisted of hemp, corn, crushed boilies and bread crumb flavoured with Cell syrup. I was fishing at about 40 yards just off an island."

Big 'Strawberry' carp for Gavin!



"After our little exchange a few days back regarding Strawberry and my session where I said that 'I wouldn't hold your breath!' Here's report regarding one of the best looking fish in the South East which I had the pleasure of catching on Thursday.

I got to Strawberry Fields on Wednesday with my good friend Peter Hurdle to do a 48 hour as the weather for this time of year was spot on. On speaking to Len he told me that a few had been out including a 39lb common which filled me with confidence. I opted to fish one of the swims which I knew would have form with the South Westerly coming in so dropped into it. Once I was all settled I had a little social with Len and my mate as I was in no rush to get the rods out so I just put some bait out and let the swim settle. The day and night went by and by 11am on Thursday I was changing out 2 rods while leaving the 3rd one on the spot. At 15.15 that 3rd rod was away and I'm pleased to say I managed one of the lake's jewels.....The Fully Plated Ghostie at 40lb 5oz.

To say I was buzzing was an understatement and it is a testament to Len and all he has created with the lake and it's ridiculously impressive head of fish past and present including the 'Lee Jackson' fish which if you don't know of it.....then you have been playing golf too long! Anyway please keep up the good work with the mag and it's great to see a wide variety of catches, species and places being covered now! Much love Gavin Love"

Essex Park Lake fish for Peter



"Last week I had a few hours spare, so it was time to head over to my local Essex park lake. Armed with my Kodex Stalky CF rod and my reel loaded with 18lb K-pulse mainline, I chose a secluded part of the lake which is very snaggy but holds carp this time of year. I quickly decided that a margin approach would be my method.

On the business end I was using a length of Graviton tungsten tubing to an inline lead, 4 inches of Micro-Strip coated braid to a size 8 Genomic MGP micro barbed hook with no hair. I mounted 8-10 maggots straight on the hook, then a few inside a Meltz pva bag topped up with some 2mm pellets.

With in 10 minutes my rod was off, resulting in this stunning park lake common. Due to the fact I was fishing in a very snaggy situation I wanted to make sure that I had full faith in all the tackle I was using, and Kodex products have never let me down. Pete Baker"

YOUR CATCH PHOTOS by Ryan Went

In my opinion, the perfect shot does not exist and that is because with every species, the way to take a decent image of them changes. We can get the basics right and you can go from there and play around. First of all, I would suggest an entry level DSLR camera. I would recommend a Canon myself, but, I am aware that a lot of people like Nikon as well.

So once you have an entry level DSLR camera, it's time for you to get a lens. I'm doing this on a budget as a lot of people don't have the funds to spend a fortune. I would look to purchase a 50mm f1.8 lens. Both Canon and Nikon do budget versions of this lens which are incredibly good for the £60/£70 you can get them for. So you have a camera and a lens so let's look at taking the image!

Do not worry too much about all the settings available on the camera as you will become more familiar with these in time. I would play around with aperture priority (AV) mode first and if you set the number as low as possible and focus the camera, the remaining amount will be out of focus making you and your subject 'Pop'. The camera will automatically adjust the shutter speed to cope with over exposure. Don't get me wrong, sometimes this may not work and after that I would try TV which on a Canon is shutter priority allowing you to change the shutter speed to keep it in focus. However, the camera will decide the best aperture to use for the image. Once you start getting the hang of your camera, then start messing around with manual mode and look at some tutorial videos that are available across the web. When you are doing self takes a few important things are a shutter release which will allow a simple press of a button and gives you a certain amount of time before taking a series of images! And also when using a tripod to keep the camera still turn IS (Image Stabilizer) OFF as if on a tripod this will cause camera movement and possibly causing blurry images. Here's some of my catch photos using the above techniques.



Stunning Strawberry common for Rob!



"Hi Barry, here's a picture of the Common Carp caught at Strawberry Fields. Due to the great weather we have been having, I managed to catch a 39lb 6oz winter carp from under an over hanging tree, 20 yards out. It was caught using a red spicy fish boilie. I was doing a 48 hour session at Strawberry Fields, from Friday 22nd - 24th February. The bite was at 5.15am Saturday morning and put up a good fight, holding the bottom of the lake. Caught on a KD rig. With the weather being unusually warm, I thought my chances were good for at least a bite on this hard lake!" Regards Rob Dale

Big Gedges perch for Wesley!

Wesley Stevens had this lovely 3lbs 5ozs perch from Gedges Lakes at Paddock Wood. This great fish was among a catch of four perch all topping 2lbs! Wesley fished with a King Prawn tail beneath a waggler. Wesley fished with a Middy 13' Carp Waggler rod, a main line of 4lbs bs and a size 12 Drennan hook on a 4lbs Drennan hooklink. The bait was fished a rod length out under a willow tree among a few free prawn offerings. This fine perch was a PB for Wesley!



Angling Societies



14 miles of River and 7 Lakes containing:

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MEMBERSHIP FEE 2017/18 SEASON

Senior Membership - £60 + £10 Joining fee

Ladies Membership - £20 + £10 Joining fee

OAP 65 years + £30 + £10 Joining fee

Junior Members £10 + NO JOINING FEE

FAMILY TICKETS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE

View the waters on the web www.tonbridge-angling.co.uk

PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB Contact Donna on 07947 557140

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, Beult and Tiese. 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: **Hon. Secretary: Chris Knowler on 07712 622858**

e-mail: chris@lintonangling.co.uk

www.lintonangling.co.uk

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Marshside Fishery: Homersham Lake & Scroggins Lake CT3 4EB

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Junior (aged 14-16 years inc.) - £40

Junior (aged 13 and under) No fee

Day Tickets available at all venues:

Rivers: £5 / Lakes: £10

Night fishing allowed only by prior booking.

Please call 07766 623673 to book

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Look for us on Facebook – Marshside Fishery

visit us at www.marshsidefishery.co.uk



For further details contact the Secretary:

Rob Tuck-Brown on

07484 144561

or email: robtuckbrown@hotmail.com



Hastings Bexhill & District Freshwater Angling Association

Season runs from 1st April to 31st March.

Established in 1895 the association provides its members and day ticket anglers with various lakes and rivers to fish throughout Hastings, Bexhill and the surrounding area.

We currently have seven waters that provide a mixture of species at specimen weights to suit all anglers' preferences. As well as the lakes run by the association we also offer members the ability to fish various stretches of river in the surrounding area.

The association provides waters to suit all ages, abilities and interests so there's something for everyone.

To apply to become a member please download and print the application form from our website. Complete and return to the Membership officer on the application, alternatively it is possible to purchase your membership from any of the tackle shops listed on our website.

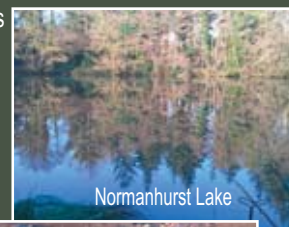
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Chris Pagan 07429 655237 Steve Potter 07935 268174

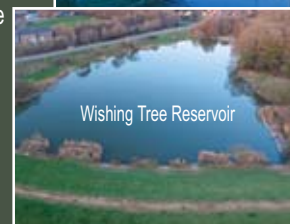
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Brick Farm Lakes

Herstmonceux, East Sussex

April showers, cherry blossom, extra hour of daylight, hanging out the washing, walking in the Bluebell wood and fly fishing, Spring has truly arrived! The winter months are now firmly to the rear and we can all enjoy our return to the great outdoor life we crave during the long, dark days of winter. Yes we may still have the odd late frost this time of year but nothing to spoil the pleasure of gardening, walking the dog or sitting outside with our lunch and a cuppa or, of course, fishing.

This is the most fantastic time of year to enjoy this wonderful sport and an excellent time in our angling calendar to introduce a new angler. Teaching them the skills of casting, explaining the art of watercraft and showing them the insect life starting to emerge with abundance before their very eyes is a hugely rewarding experience.

Here at Brick Farm Lakes, in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, we are completely set up for the novice angler to start their adventure. The envied facilities here with our comfortable oak framed Lodge, three well stocked lakes (fourth to be opened soon) and quiet location provide the perfect venue to bring a partner or friend to get them started.

We have new rods and tackle bags to hire if you need to and we sell vouchers for fishing tickets and tuition if required as a gift. We have plenty of parking close to the lakes, CLEAN toilets, free tea and coffee and can even make you an egg and bacon roll for an early breakfast or lunch (up to 12am). We have a railed, wide, wheelchair safe platform in front of the Lodge which can be pre-booked for "Blue Badge" holders in need of a secure, safe spot to fish from – fly fishing is truly "open to all"! If you are thinking of bringing a youngster up to the age of sixteen, then please remember that they must be accompanied at all times and bare in mind that we sell a £40 "guardian" fishing ticket to share four fish between you or if it is an adult with you, then we have the option of a "five fish shared" ticket at the cost of £48. They will need to wear a hat and glasses and don't forget an Environment Agency rod licence is required. We do not permit, for safety reasons, total beginners to hire tackle and go out to fish for the first time on their own without an experienced "helper".

Don't forget fly fishing is an inexpensive, lightweight, no mess, simple form of angling that can be used and adapted to fish for many species including carp, bass, pike and many more! It is ideal for ladies, the elderly and disabled and is a sociable, friendly and tireless way to fish, where strength and height are not an issue and your angling neighbour will happily help you along the way, coming



**WISH TO TAKE UP FLY FISHING?
WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR CASTING?
WE CAN HELP—COME AND TALK TO US**

We provide casting practice / instruction during the summer months

We provide fly tying instruction during the winter months

Junior members welcome—We have members fishing for England

We hold ten club fly fishing competitions each year using local fisheries

We fly fish for Trout, Carp, pike and other species

We have instructors and a junior member welfare officer available

Pop in and see us—Three Bridges Cricket Club, Three Bridges Road, Three Bridges, Crawley, RH10 1JR. We meet every Tuesday evening at 8.00pm

Contact: secretary@crawleyflyfishers.org.uk Web Site www.crawleyflyfishers.org.uk

Phone: 07528 605370 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/> 

readily to your assistance when called upon and it can provide company or solitude in equal measures and a meal for the table. Marvellous!

If ever there was a time to treat yourself (or a friend/partner) to a six fish ticket for the day then it has to be right now! The lakes are full to the brim, the water still cold and Annie has had some excellent quality fish of various sizes stocked for your enjoyment. A little tip, if I may be so bold - give yourself a full day to enjoy your time here. Too many times of late anglers have had to sadly cut their day short, having to dash off for home/work/children/dogs/meetings/shopping etc. etc. etc. Don't feel guilty having a bit of "ME TIME". I am including myself in this piece of advice, of course!! Where's my purse?!!! Don't forget Father's Day is coming up fast in June so vouchers are always welcome, just call the Lodge and we can post them to you; simples!

Over and out now, and have a lovely Easter holiday this year of fishing trips and family fun.

Annie and Caroline.

in the Pink

Mystery Pairs Competition

Have fun
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The Fishing Lodge
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Chalk Springs Arundel, West Sussex

March was a mixed month weather-wise – everything from rain to frost and lovely sun. Hopefully the Spring is well and truly on it's way now. The fishing was consistent all through the last month, with a rod average over 90% most days. The fish size was pretty good too – averaging over 2 and a half pounds, with the best rainbow of the month just under 11lb.

A wide variety of flies have been effective as always. Goldhead damsels, bloodworms, daddy longlegs, buzzers to name but a few. Presentation is just as important as choosing the 'right' fly. Getting down to the correct depth and speed of retrieve also play a big part in catching successfully. The water is still pretty clear, so stalking has been possible (except on the windy days!) if you want to target individual fish. The annual April Fools competition takes place in early April – look out for the results in the next issue.

Otherwise, not much else to report this month – the pictures speak for themselves. Keep up to speed with the weekly updates on the website, on Twitter and our Facebook page. Don't forget that pre-booking is advisable, especially as we move towards Easter and the holidays.

Tight lines, Darren and Ally.



Brian Kentish



Graham Monet



Lomax



Paul Clivered



Terry Wheldon

Thornwood Springs Epping, Essex

What a fantastic weekend of fly fishing firsts and personal bests! All species recorded in every lake. **Mark Bloxham** had a 16.5lb brown which he landed and released and was caught on a fly he used to deadly effect last year a **Martyn Williams** snake he gets specially made for him. Other browns were taken on **Andrew Bufton** taffargoed flies cosmic cats and a new stripey pattern arrived last week deadly! So a weekend of Welsh flies smashing it... as a first brown and blue and biggest rudd for **Lindsay** all in last 30 minutes of day! All caught on buzzers and damsels, lots of happy anglers!

Tenterden Trout Waters Tenterden, Kent

The beginning of March was horrendous for most of us in the South East with very high winds and much rain. I was running around the Fishery like a mad woman trying to keep the flow of water between the Lakes under control so as not to flood our neighbours and the Cranbrook Road! It was just too dangerous to fish and I was fielding calls to Anglers to return when everything had calmed down.

I am typing this on the 18 March and I am pleased to say that everything is back to normal with some sunshine and light showers and we came out of it unscathed – thank goodness and what a relief to all. We have recently stocked some quality Rainbows and Browns in all 3

Lakes and the Trout are very feisty so our Anglers will be up for a good fight. We have continued to put larger fish in which is working well. They are currently feeding on the top and the popular patterns have been Diawl Bach, Hoppers, Cormorant and old faithful Montana.

It's time now to get back out in our beautiful Wealden Countryside and enjoy some Spring Fishing – It is a good time of year to catch fish and we hope to welcome you to Tenterden for some great sport. Please check the Home Page on our website and click on the current month under Latest News for an up-to-date fishing report. We also have an Instagram Gallery – so please follow us.

www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk

If you are looking to learn the skill of Fly Fishing this year please see the Tuition Page on our website and book a lesson with Richard Stokes. We also offer Gift Vouchers for that special present please call Gaynor on 01580 763201 or email gaynor@coombe-farm.com to make your purchase.

Tight Lines, Gaynor

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Mark Tester with his quality Rainbow



Tom Jarvis & Peter Beeny with their decent bag of Rainbows



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We have 2 separate complexes each with 3 stream fed lakes which are regularly stocked throughout the season with hard fighting top condition rainbows and browns.

- Annual membership £280 (March-November)
- 25 visits – 3 fish limits
- Guests welcome (uses 1 of your visits each time)
- C&R on specified lakes (early season)

For details contact:

R. Nathan

01892 770903

r.nathan@btinternet.com

www.cinder-hill-trout.uk



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FROM HORSHAM take the A281 to Guildford go through Bucks Green and past the Fox Inn Public House on the left, turn right about 3/4 of a mile further on sign posted Cooks Hill follow the road for 1/4 of a mile, Hazel Copse is on the left.

Teise Anglers and Conservation Society

River trout and grayling fishing on the River Teise in Kent

Teise Anglers and Conservation Society controls more than 7 miles of the River Teise in the beautiful Kent countryside of the Weald near Goudhurst. We also have a well-stocked reservoir at Marden Beech.



Full details of the Society and the fishing can be found on the website:

www.teiseanglers.org.uk

Memberships are currently available. If you are interested in becoming a member please contact the secretary.

Email:

secretary@teiseanglers.org.uk

Telephone: 07960 518738

CHALK SPRINGS

01903 883742 www.chalksprings.com



One of England's top trout stillwaters for over 25 years - the fishery is nestled in a picturesque valley at the foot of the South Downs. The four crystal-clear, spring fed lakes are stocked daily with Rainbows, Browns and Blues, averaging 2lb - 3lb and up into double figures.

- Lakeside lodge with complimentary tea & coffee
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- Tickets from only £27
- Discounts for block/season tickets, juniors and novices



Park Bottom Arundel West Sussex BN18 0AA

Voted the 20th best stillwater fishery by Trout Fisherman magazine



Fresh thinking.....

Having got my "fly head on" again, I can't think of anything I'd rather be doing at the moment. I've enjoyed it so much, the challenge of fishing different waters, especially those I'd not fished before has given me a new sense of freedom I've not experienced for many years. With this open minded approach, I'm now starting anew and learning new skills and tactics, while using different flies, all very exciting stuff. "So where to next"?

Chalybeate Springs – Eridge East Sussex TN3 9JA [07583 071 871]

This lovely 2 acre spring fed lake is situated in the heart of the Eridge Deer Park. Stocked with Rainbow and Brown Trout, Chalybeate also has a small stock of native Brown Trout which breed in the feeder stream. I have happy memories of hours spent chasing their ancestors in the various streams on the Eridge Estate back in the 70's with spinners and worms before I learnt to fly fish.

I arrived on a crisp Sunday morning, the frost was so thick on the ground I happily accepted a cuppa from Jim Streeter the fishery owner. Jim has revived the fishery since he took over with a lot of TLC, effort, enthusiasm and passion. Jim's new found hobby of fly fishing, he only took it up when he retired, having previously been a coarse fisherman. Jim was hesitant to start fly fishing having thought it was only for 'toffs', nothing could be further from the truth, believe me!



Jim's peg, what a view!

I used to fish Chalybeate quite a lot when it first opened many years ago. I remember I often caught fish very close to the bank, on the "lift and hang" at the end of my retrieve. All successful reservoir anglers know how important it is to finish each cast with a slow "lift" followed by a long pause, "hang", before lifting off to make the next cast. This tactic is the downfall of many fish and is often overlooked by small water specialists.

I decided to start in the right hand corner of the dam as this allowed me to cast parallel to the adjacent bank. I was again using my Lee Wulff Predator 'sink tip' line with a single, semi-buoyant FAB Blob, no droppers allowed here. By now it was a beautiful calm and bright sunny morning, in fact, I had to wear my sunglasses it was that dazzling. There were occasionally fish rolling on the surface that were very distracting, at first it appeared that there were quite a few fish rising but on closer inspection I concluded it was only a small number of very active fish that seemed to be cavorting all over the lake. In the past, I could easily have ended up chasing these fish thinking there was a rise on, but I could hear the advice of my good friend James Gardner ringing in my ears, saying these were only about 1% of the population and the rest were somewhere else down below!

So after each cast, I counted my line down, first 15 seconds, then 20 seconds as I searched deeper and closer to the bottom, where any feeding fish would be finding food in the form of fly larvae. I slowly retrieved my fly back towards the dam face; takes came shortly after I felt the sink tip section of my line dragging along the bottom. The extra friction of the line alerted me to the fact my fly was approaching the incline of the dam face. I had to be very vigilant at this point as a take could come at any moment; in fact 4 of my first 6 fish came



Nick Cox enjoying the early morning sun at Chalybeate

on the lift as I felt my fly clipping strands of weed or reeds. After a few hours I'd exhausted all the angles I could cast to from my corner position, so I now moved to the casting platform in the middle of the dam.

Nick Cox the only other angler brave enough to venture out this morning had fished this spot earlier without success. Although Nick was fishing in a very similar fashion, he'd not received a take and I wondered if the fact that the platform forced him to cast out into deeper water was the reason for his lack of action? I couldn't buy a take casting from the platform either so decided to cast along the face of the dam, as I was sure there were more fish to be caught here if I could. I struggled to cast conventionally so resorted to casting backwards. This allowed me to guide my cast away from the limbs of the overhanging trees and bushes. After the drama of casting, I continued my methodical slow retrieves and managed to extract another 4 fish, one of which took so close to the end of my cast that none of my fly line was actually on the water, the take was indicated by the sudden tightening of my leader!

I'd fished as well as I knew how and felt tired but contented. What a welcome return it had been, I mustn't leave it so long before returning to this cracking little fishery!

Norton Fishery – Stapleford Tawney, Essex RM4 1ST [01708 688 525]

As James Gardner and I approached the fishery, we wonder if it would be frozen or not? The last few days and nights had been 'Baltic'. I'd taken the precaution of phoning ahead to confirm the lake wasn't already solid. Neither of us had ever fished here before so it was with some trepidation that we entered the fishing lodge. Bert, the owner, gave us a brief rundown on the fishery's history, its stock and what to expect regarding features and depth. At about 5 acres in size, Norton's an ex-gravel pit so the water is very clear. With casting platforms dotted around the banks, there's plenty of room and water to explore. On this occasion, we had the lake to ourselves, no surprise really as the previous day's snow still hadn't cleared.

The grass crunched underfoot as we surveyed the scene before us. James elected to fish off the point directly outside the lodge. Being left handed James could cast across the wind that was funnelling down into the bay to his left; he could easily cast across the narrow channel into the opposite margin which allowed him to fish his flies down the drop-off. I decided to explore the other end of the lake and cast into the light breeze that was pushing into that corner. I wanted to cast along the margin but the various shrubs along the bank forced me to cast directly out into open water, I then let the wind drift my flies back towards the margin.

After about an hour, doubt started to enter my head. I began to wonder if we'd "bitten off more than we could chew". I hadn't seen any signs of fish and I'd been fishing through the upper layers of the water systematically searching, going deeper and deeper but still without a take! In desperation, I went much deeper and retrieved much slower too, first cast and a take at last, "fish on", what a relief. Unfortunately, this wasn't the answer and after many more casts I moved to the adjacent bank which allowed me to cast across the wind and drift my flies into the down-wind margin. My set up was my 'go to' method of the moment, 'sink tip' line and 'washing line system'; flies were my reliable Blob – top dropper, Diawl Bach – middle dropper and FAB Blob point fly.

From my new casting position, I noticed the occasional fish roll through the surface, these were so gentle it suggested they weren't coming from depth. Fish rising from deep water usually burst through the surface creating very splashy rises, these fish seemed to be mooching along near the surface which was at odds with what we'd expected. I tried searching a little higher in the water on my next few casts, counting down 15 seconds before commencing my retrieve when everything locked up "fish on"! A little while later another fish falls in a similar fashion, maybe I've found the method after all?

James had been experiencing the same as well, one fish taken deep while the other came shallow, time for lunch, a warm up and a re-think. Having thought I'd cracked the method, fishing through the mid-water, I had a rude awakening as I remained 'fishless' for the next hour after lunch. What to try next? I switched to an indicator [bung] and a team of flies

For expert service and advice visit Andy's shop The Friendly Fisherman in Tunbridge Wells [TN1 2PS] for a huge variety of freshwater, fly & lure tackle.
www.thefriendlyfisherman.co.uk

suspended at 2ft, 4ft and finally 6ft, this would allow me to hardly move my flies. The thought occurred to me that I might have spooked the fish by casting repeatedly into the same area? Clear water fish are more aware of being pursued; maybe this change of tactic would open the flood gates?

Drifting my flies around in the breeze brought no response. Next move, I returned to casting into the now freezing wind, it was painful but "no pain, no gain". A few casts later and as my indicator reaches the near shelf then dithers, bobs and finally jabs under, a quick strike and a welcome fish splashes on the surface. Just then the owner appears and asks me if I've tried fishing the platform on the opposite, up-wind bank? He informed me this was one of the most productive spots on the whole lake. "It's always worth casting back into the corner, where there's an in-flow, or out towards the island". Well by now I was frozen and I wasn't going to ignore local advice, plus the comfort of getting out of the bitter wind was too much to resist.



Andy looks pleased with one of Norton's finest

Casting from my new spot was not easy due to my back cast clipping the bushes when I got over ambitious. My first two casts produced finicky takes that I missed. The bung dipped and bobbed but didn't stay under long enough to strike. Next cast and this time my vigorous strike results in me breaking off, doh! I re-tackled but this time with just two flies under the bung as I was sure the takes were coming to the shallowest fly, as this was where my leader had broken, at the junction with the top dropper. First cast and hardly had my flies settled when the bung disappeared. I lifted quickly and felt the satisfying surge of power as a fit Rainbow powers off towards the island. What happened next was truly amazing as every cast produced a take, with fish falling to both flies; they were very shallow now, most fish took the top fly but some took the deeper fly "on the drop" before it reached its full depth setting. By now James had joined me; fishing from the next platform he was also enjoying the action. In that manic last hour we managed to catch at least a dozen fish which sent us home with big smiles on our faces. I'm left wondering if that lost fish sparked the other fish into action? It was as if someone had flicked a switch and the lake suddenly turned on.

GUIDED LURE & FLY FISHING DAYS WITH ANDY LUSH

Lure Fishing

Fish a variety of reservoirs for Pike, Perch and Zander. These days are suitable for beginners and improvers who wish to 'fast track' their way to success.

Learn more about lure fishing, the use of boats and fish finders, or just have a FUN day with an experienced Predator angler.

Fly Fishing

One of Andy's favourite methods, Trout, Carp or Pike can be targeted.

Trout

Reservoirs or smaller stillwaters in the South East. These days are suitable for beginners or improvers who wish to learn 'how to catch more fish', or just have a FUN day with an experienced fly fisherman.

Carp & Pike

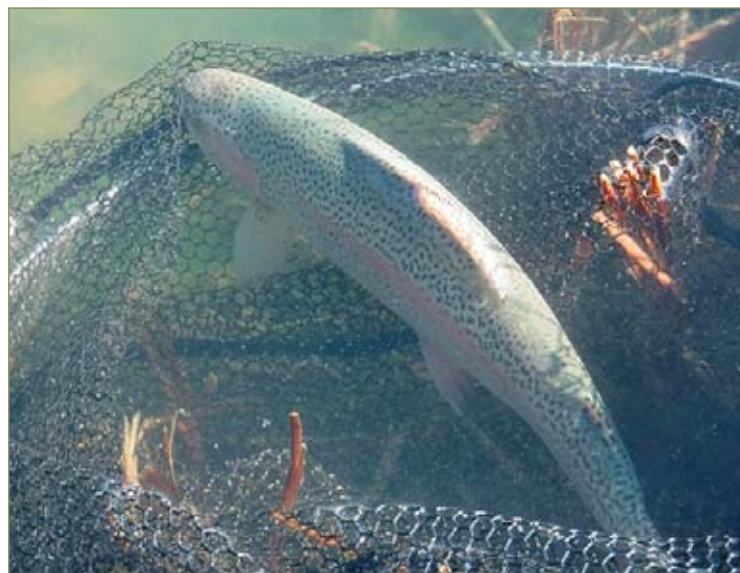
More anglers are looking to find exciting ways of catching their favourite fish. Carp off the top during the summer takes a lot of beating. Pike in the spring and autumn, whatever their size they are a lot of FUN on the fly!

For details contact Andy Lush on 01892 528677



The "bung"

I mentioned in last month's article about positioning my flies closer together when fishing the bung, this is because the flies are fishing vertically with little or no lift as they are fished most often static, so they are actually fishing 2ft apart. My usual spacing of 4ft to 5ft when casting is to allow for the angle in my leader as I retrieve. The lift caused by the drag of my flies and leader line means in all likelihood my flies are fishing 2ft apart depth wise.



A few precious moments to savour before releasing

It's important when searching the layers of water that you only make small depth changes if you want to be successful, so 2ft apart rather than 5ft apart is likely to put at least one fly in the right depth. Finally another tactic is to occasionally make one or two long strips to lift your flies towards the surface before letting them settle again, this catches the attention of cruising fish that might not have noticed your static presentation. I'm now pretty sure these thoughts explain my lack of success previously when using this method. I'd never given it much thought and as a consequence had only bumped into the very occasional fish, usually on the drop when my flies were above the fish for a briefest moment.

Til' next month "tight lines."
Andy Lush

Cinder Hill Boys 'Jolly Day Out'!

Four Cinder Hill Trout Fishing members recently fished Brick Farm Lakes at Herstmonceux, a favourite water away from their own lakes which open 1st March. Mark 'Stuntman' Orchin was literally the 'Butt' of all the jokes falling flat on his while trying to land the first fish of the day! However, he had the last laugh catching the best 4 fish limit bag of the day. Also pictured is Kevin Reeves who managed some decent fish also. The fish were hard fighting and in tip-top condition and fell to a mixture of damselfly, lures and buzzers. All in all, a great day out in excellent surroundings and nice and warm for a change.





Medway and Kent Sea Fishing Group



Sea Reports are proudly sponsored by - Medway and Kent Sea Fishing Group

The last few weeks have certainly seen some rough weather lash our region's coastline! March can be a most unpredictable month in relation to weather, but, let's hope that April will settle down and be more 'fishing friendly'! It was a shame as just before the succession of 'blows' that came hurtling through, the fishing was picking up nicely and the plaice were beginning to make an appearance along the shoreline. As I write this, the weather outside is more akin to cod fishing, but, the less I say about that the better! The current sea temperature is around nine degrees so a little up on last month's report.

Thames report

Flounders and a few school bass making up the anglers' bags at the moment. Terry had four flounders from Greenhithe and Martin had three bass and two flounders from a mark just east of Gravesend. Grain has been producing some flatfish, small whiting and a few bass with ragworm being the best bait.



Medway report

The river has been fairly quiet this past few weeks. Anglers are awaiting the return of the bass and other Spring species which should be arriving at anytime now. Rochester end of the river has produced a few flounders, eels, small whiting and school bass.

Your local Medway tackle shops are Medway Tackle Supplies now moved to bigger premises at 11, Twydall Green, Anglers Den 01634 852180 and Rod and Line 01634 880770.



Sheppey report courtesy of Sheppey Angling

Good numbers of rays being caught right around the island's shoreline from Sheerness to Shellness. Many anglers recording multiple catches per tide. Fish baits are proving to be the best. Although the weather has not been the best recently, those who did venture out have been well rewarded for their efforts. A few bass now beginning to show along with flounders, dabs, whiting and a few dogfish. The crabs are beginning to moult so the hounds won't be far away! Local boats have been frustrated at not being able to get out as before the stormy weather good numbers of hounds and thornbacks were being caught. Prospects for both shore and boat anglers for the coming month look very encouraging!

Sheppey Angling stock a wide range of sea and coarse tackle and a good range of fresh and frozen baits. Call Mick on 01795 661089 / 07902 092595.

North Kent report

Good numbers of thornbacks now being caught with fish to double figures recorded. Fish baits being successful for the rays. Dabs, flounders, whiting and dogfish are the other species being



caught. A few nice flounders from the beach at Seasalter.

Absolute Tackle at Herne Common have a great selection of tackle and quality fresh and frozen baits. Call 01227 36724 / 07809 330854.

Thanet report courtesy of Fishermens Corner

The dogfish have started to be caught more regularly from the East pier and rock marks which indicates the water is warming up and the bass won't be far off. Still flatfish coming up and in the clear water you can catch small plaice and the occasional small turbot. Still a few dabs around and we will hopefully start to see a few flounders. Ragworm is a good all round bait for the flatties in clear water and will also catch bass. A good selection of baits is always available in Fisherman's Corner Ramsgate, which is a short walk from the East pier. Call us on 01843 582174.



Deal report courtesy of David Chamberlain

Plenty of thornback rays have been caught from the beach and pier throughout March - and April should produce plenty more. Best marks are from the north of Deal Pier to Sandwich bay. Lower deck on the pier is one of the better spots but can be a bit snaggy. The way to save losing too much gear is to fish a single hook pulley rig and use lead weights with the wires coming from base. A quick retrieve and if there is a snag, the lead's wires normally pull straight and through the obstruction. Ray baits are bluey, herring, mackerel, squid and sandeel. When the sea temperature starts to warm-up, the spring moult of crabs should begin by the end of April. This will bring in the smooth hounds and bass. However, the warmer weather will produce May weed (a form of plankton) which is a problem and can make fishing a pain when it coats the reel line. Be warned that repairs are ongoing to the lower deck of Deal Pier, therefore, it might be advisable to phone the attendant on 01304 363815 to make sure it is available before a planned trip. The top deck of the pier is always open to angling and all night on 14 April. Channel Angling at Deal can provide all your quality fresh and frozen bait and tackle. Call Fred on 01304 373104.



Dover report

Not many reports from the iconic Admiralty pier and other Dover marks of late. However, those that have fished have reported dogfish, whiting, pouting, dabs, plaice and a couple of rays. Numbers of rays and the arrival of the hounds expected this month along with bigger plaice. Don't forget you now need to be a member of DSAA in order to fish on the pier. Call Craig at Channel Angling for more details.



Channel Angling Dover have a great range of tackle for sea and coarse anglers along with some quality fresh and frozen baits. Call Craig on 01304 203742.

Hythe report

Plenty of dabs, some plaice and a few early sole have featured in anglers' bags. Dogfish, whiting and pouting also present along with some thornbacks. The Western end of the beach has provided good bags of flatties on certain tides. This month will see better sized plaice and more rays arrive. **Top local shops for your tackle and bait are Dens Tackle 01303 267053 and Best Buddies 01303 253881**



Pevensey Bay

The recent stormy weather has curtailed beach fishing somewhat! Before the storms arrived, the fishing was picking up nicely with numbers of plaice moving in. Now the storms have passed the forecast looks much more promising and Spring like so prospects are looking very good. Along with the plaice, other species to look forward to are dabs, flounders, dogfish and bass.

Local shops for your tackle and bait are Anglers Den 01323 460441 and Tonys Tackle 01323 731388.



DUNGENESS Latest catch reports on www.seagullfishingtackle.com Gosh, it has been quiet for the last couple of weeks, must be something to do with the weather! So not much being reported on either beach or boat...yes the match guys are holding their end up. The big shock is how many rays are being caught around the beaches of Dungeness, But the weather has been tough and erratic...roll on summer!

BEACH REPORT

March has been tough with the weather...but we could have a busy end to the month. If the weather is good at weekends, we could see more fishermen about...that will mean more fish reports. Sea temperatures are on the move upwards with the better weather and more daylight.

Here are a couple of the March reports coming into my site...

As night follows day...

I had this report in from Mafia Muziq yesterday...it's a funny old fishing world...hard to find a dab in the WDC match (well done Becky-Lee finding six) and later the same day they come on the feed...

"We fished Hythe me and my boy and mate Ianzo and his boy it was a beautiful night to be dabbling around bait used sticky week old blacks had about 4 pin whiting all returned it was dabs all night"



Flattie fest for Dave...

I had this report in from Dave Kingsman tonight...

"Hi Tony, Lovely weather this week and Flattie fishing at Dungy was calling. No chance of fresh worms this week so I ventured down the Walkway with frozen blacks, squid, Blueys and sprats. Started off fairly slow but started picking up decent sized Dabs as the tide turned. Great bite then landed 37cm Flounder along with a 28cm Dab double shot. Steady stream of good size Dabs followed. Only 1 x Whiting as well. A very enjoyable day."



Hooked for life?...

I had this report in from Sam Jarvis this morning...

"Hi mate sorry its late, report from last weekend. Took Devan beach fishing for the first time and he pulled in a lovely big dab I think, which we took home and he cooked and enjoyed himself. Not bad for only 9 years old. Think I've got him hooked!"



Plenty of rays moving in...

I had this great report in from Dave Harrington this morning...

"Hi Tony. Had a little session with Becky Lee at Dymchurch last night.

We got there just before dark & set up 2 rods each & with no wind & a nice calm sea everything look spot on. I was using a Pulley Rig on 1 rod & an up & over rig on the other rod. Becky was using up and over rigs on both her rods. I had Bluey and Launce with me & Becky had both as well as Herring. Becky was the first to have a bite on her first cast, but missed it. Then it was quite until just after low when the tide just started to move and I had a nice slack line bite which resulted in a nice plump Ray of between 8-9lb (second photo). Becky then followed that up with a couple of Rays around the 5lb mark and I had the usual Dogfish. After about an hour I had another slack line bite which resulted in another small Ray around the 4-5lb mark. Becky had another Ray around the same weight and after that it went quiet again. We ended up with 5 Rays, 5 Dogs and only 1 solitary Whiting. A good night with a good friend."



The new 'flat' cod in rough seas

I had this report in this morning from Becky Lee on messenger...breezy...but cracking fishing...

"Well happy with last night fishing Dungeness in first southern circuit match from 7pm to midnight. 5 rays landed there with lots of dogfish and a few decent Whiting too. Fozz has the first ray of 5lb +, then Michael Ferrier landed one of 6-7lb, then an hour later I managed to get one on worm of all baits at 8lb 15 (biggest fish) and next cast one of 5lb +, the. Keith managed one half hour later of about 7-8lb. A very good match with some nice fish rather than just dogfish. Oh a and free bait too. Was a nice evening except for the last hour where it chucked it down. Ended up with 29lb so well chuffed. Loads of ebb tide and even fixed wires were struggling to hold at one point."



BEACH OUTLOOK FOR APRIL

I have never known so many rays being reported around Dungeness...so few cod but plenty of fish and this should only get better as more plaice appear and the bass return in numbers.

Best Baits

You have to fish for what is there so fish baits for the rays...blueys, mackerel, and squid. For the plaice (and other flatties) worm baits, lugworm and ragworm both work.

BOAT REPORT

Here are a few of the March reports coming into my site...

Early spring conditions, wrecking

I had this report in from Anthony out on Peganina (07989778361) from Rye... "Hard work pays off best pollack was over 10lb"



Jerry's right...Spring is on its way!

I had this report in last night from Jerry Oiller of Fairchance fame (01797 363544) out from Dungeness...

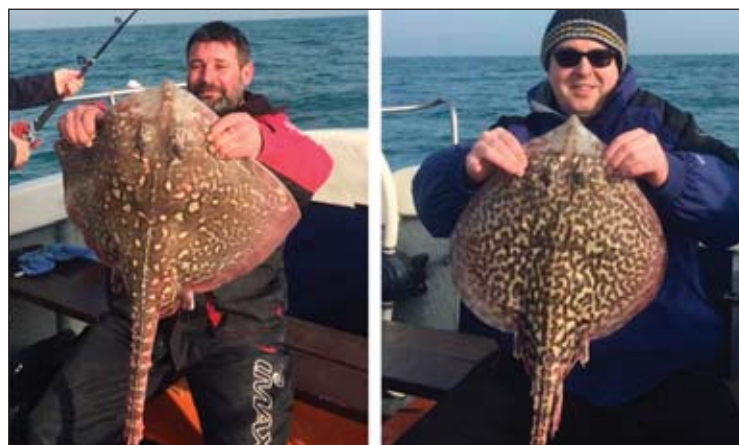
"Hi Tony, spring is on its way, crew managed to scratch out 7 Plaice in the West Bay, the best going 1 lb 10 oz, then a few drifts over the wrecks for 1 or 2 small Pollack, Luke landing the best at 4 lb 8 oz. Regards Jerry. O."



Great day for catching a few rays (19 Feb)

I saw this report posted on facebook this morning by Jason Adams out on Sea Otter (07772708317) from Dungeness...

"A couple of photos from Saturdays trip with Clive and gang. A smooth day afloat and landed a few rays. Best fish going to Howard aka tipless,, with an 11lb Ray."



Rock & Roll on the way back

I had this report from Anthony this evening out on Peganina from Rye (07989778361) ...

"Boys did amazing today considering storm Freya was doing her best to ruin our day - good day afloat!!"



Colour matched... beard wise...

I had this report in last night from Jerry Oiller of 'Fairchance' fame (01797 363544) out from Dungeness...

"Hi Tony, Local lads aboard today, managed 6 or 7 small Pollock on the wrecks down East, 6 Thornback at Anchor and a fine Tub Gurnard for Darren Brooks."



BOAT OUTLOOK FOR APRIL

Let's hope we get some good weather to give fishing a boost. It has been tough going for charter skippers just to get afloat. The fish are out there but do need some settled weather, the fishing has been brilliant for the time of the year, so many different species about, spoilt for choice...all we need is some help from the weather.

Best Baits

If you're not wrecking with artificial lures...it has to be fish baits, mackerel, bluey and squid...it won't be long before we're catching mackerel for bait. Yes if you want a plaice, worm cocktails will do it.

ANGLERS DEN PEVENSEY BAY OPEN RESULTS

The 2019 Anglers Den Open Beach Fishing Competition was fished in Pevensy Bay on Sunday 10th March on a Catch and Release basis (to size limits) with 90 pegs for a top prize of £300.

The continental style prize structure meant that the over-all winner is taken out of the zone prizes. All other prize money is then paid out in the zones equally.

OVERALL WINNER

Brett Green who fished in C Zone and gained 201 points with 6 fish, including a bass of 44cm.



Brett Green

BIGGEST ROUNDFISH - Brett Green - Bass 86 points

2nd BIGGEST ROUNDFISH - Gerald Sargeant - Whiting 26 Points

BIGGEST FLATFISH - Nick May - Plaice 74 Points

2nd BIGGEST FLATFISH - Barry Sinden - Flounder 60 Points

PAIRS WINNERS - Brett Green and Nick May - 357 Points

PAIRS RUNNERS UP - Mark Hinxman & Rex Palmer - 309 Points

C ZONE POSITIONS

1. Mark Hinxman	159 pts	2. Nick May	156 pts
3. Ben Arnold	121 pts	4. Gary Banfield	113 pts
5. Dan Wood	111 pts	6. Malcolm Payne	84 pts
7. Paul Curtice	73 pts	8. Ian Dancey	64 pts

B ZONE POSITIONS

1. Rex Palmer	150 pts	2. Steve Hanks	100 pts
3. Chris Clark	75 pts	4. Ian Hopper	50 pts
5. Anton James	49 pts	6. Steve Sargeant	38 pts
7. Joe Wales	37 pts	8. Gerald Sargeant	36 pts

A ZONE POSITIONS

1. Paul King	138 pts	2. Darren Cramer	136 pts
3. Tom Wells	134 pts	4. Trevor Rooney	121 pts
5. Scott Brown	106 pts	6. Colin Crosby	94 pts
7. Darren Bond	90 pts	8. Tony Royall	87 pts



Brett Green & Nick May

HASTINGS courtesy of Hastings Angling Centre

After a very welcome early taste of spring in mid-February, the first weeks of March have been quite wild with storm force winds and heavy rain at times, albeit usually mild with some cold nights. The rough weather has almost completely precluded the boat fishing in what is usually the best time for big pollack with much frustration all round. Beach fishing has also been poor with the heavy seas keeping the plaice offshore and anglers scratching for whatever they can get.

The beach matches have been very difficult with low weights and many blanks, see reports. Hopefully, April will bring on spring proper, the sea hasn't got too cold this winter so things should get off to an early start. Crabs peeling by Easter and the first smoothounds appearing along with some bigger bass coming inshore to feed up after spawning. Early spring can also be very good for plaice off the beach, also feeding up after spawning. They need calm weather though. The bass preferring it very rough! I wouldn't be surprised to see the first gully water by the late Easter though.

ANDERIDA BEACH FISHING CLUB

Anderida Beach Fishing Club held it's Annual Presentation Night recently. Well done to Club Champion Paul King (pictured centre), and to all the club members who won cups and shields for species of fish caught throughout the year. Glyn Morgan wasn't being shy - he was receiving an award on behalf of Rod Reynolds. Anderida, open to new members, holds fortnightly beach fishing competitions, held on a weekday evening in Pevensy Bay. Club matches are followed by sandwiches, a drink and chance to talk fishing at the Ocean View cafe. Look up Anderida on Facebook or contact Anglers Den Pevensy Bay for more details.



TONYS TACKLE MINI OPEN 17/3/19

1st Westley Sargeant	144 pts
2nd Kim McGreevy	128 pts
3rd Rod Parris	121 pts
4th Chris Kirrage	113 pts
5th Paul Parsons	112 pts



KENT BOAT REPORT courtesy of Jason Parrott

Fishing is picking up, we just need the weather to play ball! It seems when one storm goes, there's another waiting right behind it! The few times I did get out in Lady Ann we chomped some miles on the look for some spurdog. We had every bait available with us: herrings, mackerel, squid, bluey and even took some cart. All we found was skate, skate and more skate! Good fun in 145 ft of water on light rods! The dabs and plaice are showing locally but no sizes and the plaice are definitely out numbered by the dabs but still good fun. There are reports of smoothound showing in quite good numbers up to 8 lb, which for this time of year is very good. The water temperature is coming up but with this unsettled weather it's like a yo yo, up and down. First signs of peeler crab are here so an exciting month ahead. Shore anglers are finding the rays and a few bass have come in. They are medium sized fish most likely making the most of the last herring before ringing the bell for the mackerel to take over! Reports around the coast is that they have taken a bit of a hit, let's hope not!

Tight lines and hope to see some of you on the Lady Ann of Ramsgate! Jason

If you fancy a day out on the Lady Ann, call Jason on 07966 273650.



SAM'S FISHING JOURNAL courtesy of Sam Cox

A bit of a Thorny subject!

Now, I am not going to pretend that thornback rays are ever going to set the angling world on fire when it comes to excitement. They are, as my old Dad used to say, a bit like a cross between a 'rose briar and a cow pat'. However, with the collapse of our cod fishery in the Southern North Sea, for many, they are a God send. I expect the thornback rays or Roker as they are known locally, have kept a lot of charter skippers in bookings during the harder months. This can only be a good thing as our charter boat fleet has already shrunk over the past thirty years.

Thornbacks fall into the sharks and rays family of which many species are critically endangered. For this reason, very strict quotas have been applied to the commercial fishing fleet. This has led to an explosion in the thornback ray population making them very accessible to us anglers basically all year round. At the time of writing this article, which is early January, I am hearing reports of large catches of thornbacks from Kent shore marks already. This would have been unheard of in years gone by. They can now be targeted by both the accomplished anglers and anglers new to the sport.



Thornies are pretty fish

Hound time!



There is nothing complicated when it comes to thornback fishing and if you choose your location correctly only a moderate cast of say sixty to eighty yards is needed. Some anglers fish marks that require chest waders and a long stomp through the water in the dark. That's fine if you like that sort of thing, or are targeting bass or smoothhounds, but, to my mind it's far too much effort for the humble thornback.

I prefer a much more leisurely approach. I choose a late tide, even better if it's a few tides after a set of springs. I also choose a location where one can fish from the car or in my case the van.



Arriving about two hours before high water, I set my stove up and put the kettle on. Then I place the tripod in front of the van so that the rods can be watched from the comfort of my front seat.

Now for my set ups, and many of you may well laugh!

All but two of my rods are light uptiders or carp rods as most of my sea angling is for bass. However, I do possess two beach casters and although well built, I have to admit they are horrible to use being heavy cumbersome things that would be better used for holding bean plants up than for fishing with. I bought them when I first moved to Kent back in 2010 after dropping a very big cod from the Admiralty Pier on a light bass rod. Now there are no cod they get used a few times a year for the thornbacks. I do use my Penn 525 mags loaded with 20lb mono and a 50lb leader.

The first few times I targeted thornback rays from the North Kent coast, I took my time carefully tying pulley pennel rigs. I then thought to myself why am I going to all this trouble, pulley rigs were originally developed for fishing over rough ground. They work brilliantly over rough ground, but, I feel are over kill on clean shallow beaches.

So what I do now is to tie a simple blood loop, I then cut the loop so one end is longer than the other, this leaves me a hook length of around 3 feet and the other end that the weight is tied to is 4 foot long.

I then tie two 3/0 to 5/0 (depending on bait size) size Cox & Rawle uptide extra hooks onto the hook length pennel rig style.

Baits can be any fresh or freshly frozen oily fish, herring and bluey are probably the two best baits followed by mackerel, squid and sandeel.

Half a herring or bluey fillet bound up in bait elastic to form a sausage is then mounted on the pennel rig. Other baits will catch thornbacks, but, as fish baits are fairly cheap, I see no point of going to the effort or expense.

As I said distance is not really important if you choose your mark right and fish at night. Thornbacks will come in very close on shallow beaches in the hours of darkness. After lobbing both rods out, I set the clutches so that line can be taken from the reels before the rod can be dragged into the drink.

I then settle into the front seat of the van and relax with a nice cup of coffee and the radio on.

Thornback fishing lends itself to this approach. Being flat, once a thornback has covered your bait it is safe from competition. So it can then eat it at it's leisure. It will

manoeuvre itself until the bait is in the mouth area. It's during these manoeuvres that small bites can be seen on the rod tip. Do not hit these bites, sit on your hands for a good few minutes. Eventually the fish will move off, one of two things will now happen, either the rod will slowly pull round, or the main line will hit the deck as the thornback swims towards you. They are not the fastest fish in the sea but they are strong and can easily, if not slowly, pull your rod into the sea, so set your clutch accordingly. Another advantage of being flat is that the water pressure on a ray can make them feel much larger than they actually are, a bit like flying a kite underwater. The smaller male fish can give you a bit of a scrap but basically they are just a dead weight that periodically nods, not much different to an enthusiastic plastic bag caught in the tide!

Thornback rays are however very pretty fish, they come with many different patterns and colour variations. Their green eyes and gummy mouths remind me of a few ex - mother in laws I have known over the years! They also, as their name suggests, have many thorns especially along the tail and should be handled with care.

I don't mind the odd bit of skate to eat, but over the years I take less and less for the table. This has nothing to do with conserving stocks as in places it's carpeted with them. This is due to the pain and aggravation of preparing the things. They have very rough thorny skin that needs removing before they are cooked. My pal Warren Hayes is a dab hand at this. Myself on the other hand am not so good at it and invariably end up with my hands in almost as bad a state as the thornback.



Warren Hayes

All in all to me it's all about the effort involved in catching a fish. I have done a few successful trips to some of my old Essex thornback marks with friends I have made in Kent, but these are the exception. I will almost move mountains in search of bass, but the above words are as far as I'm really prepared to go when it comes to thornback fishing.

They have their place in my calendar for a few sessions, and I feel they are a great species for those new to the sport as they offer a good opportunity to catch a fairly large fish from the shore. A real ray of light at times when we have lost our beloved cod fishing!

Best wishes, Sam Cox

HASTINGS & ST LEONARDS OPEN BEACH MATCH AND 2ND ROUND OF THE ASSO TEAM LEAGUE

Fished in bright warm sunshine (!) and a light easterly wind the fishing was surprisingly tough. The expected good showing of plaice did not happen with only a handful caught. Dabs and rockling making up the rest of the meagre catch. There were lots of blanks.

WINNER ON THE DAY was Neil Marsh fishing at the New Church catching 6 fish for 2lb 11oz.

BEST FISH TODAY was Andy Hurcombe's plaice of 1lb 7oz.

A ZONE

1st Mark Rogers 1fish - 4ozs 2nd Mark Hurcombe 1 fish - 2oz
3rd Michael Ferrier 1 fish - 1.9oz

B ZONE

1st Colin Crosby 3 fish - 1lb 10oz 2nd Steve Martin 1 fish - 1lb 3oz
3rd Sam Collier 1 fish - 12ozs

C ZONE

1st Neil Marsh 6 fish - 2lb 11oz 2nd Andy Hurcombe 3fish - 2lb 7oz
3rd Brett Cotter 4 fish - 1lb 15oz

D ZONE

1st Luke Mooring 4 fish 2lb 5oz 2nd Mick Snelling 2 fish 15oz
3rd Kerry Saint 1 fish 8oz

TEAM SCORES

2ND ROUND

1 Maidstone Angling	52	1 Maidstone Angling	78
2 Channel Angling Deal	35	2 Channel Angling Deal	74
3 Deal 1919	22	3 Deal 1919	62
4 Hastings Angling Centre	22	4 Century	55
5 Century	19	5 Hastings Angling Centre	47
6 Match Mob	8	6 Match Mob	39

AFTER 2 ROUNDS

TOP INDIVIDUALS AFTER TWO ROUNDS

Kerry Saint	20	Mark Rogers	20
Colin Crosby	20	Luke Mooring	19
Sam Sampson	19	Tom Wales	17
Neil Marsh	16	Mick Snelling	16
Ben Cotter	16	Mark Hurcombe	16
Darren Bond	16		



HASTINGS OPEN BEACH MATCH AND 3RD ROUND OF THE ASSO LEAGUE

Fishing was very hard with a strong westerly wind and very rough sea. Flounders rockling and a few whiting and small bass making up most of the catch.

Winner was Luke Mooring with 9 fish for 4lb 4oz, he also leads the individual league after 3 matches with 30 points.

Heaviest fish was a three way tie with bass of 1lb 7oz Rex Palmer, Sam Collier and Luke Mooring sharing.

TEAMS

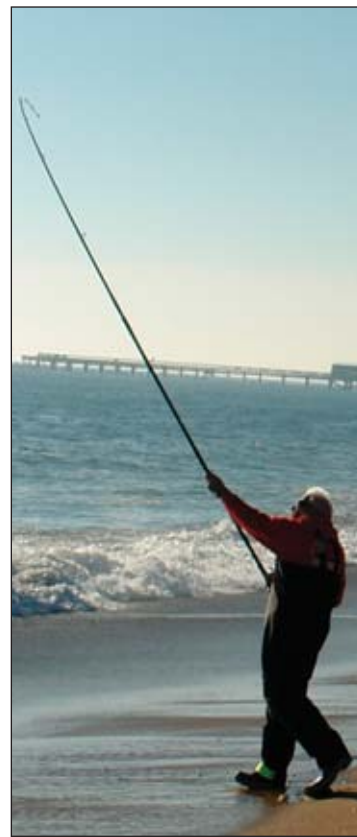
1st Channel Angling Deal	41points
2nd Century	37
3rd Maidstone Angling Centre	36
4th Hastings Angling Centre	25
5th Match Mob	25
6th Deal 1919	21

LEAGUE TABLE

1st Channel Angling Deal	115
2nd Maidstone Angling Centre	114
3rd Century	92
4th Deal 1919	83
5th Hastings Angling Centre	75
6th Match Mob	64

INDIVIDUALS

1st Luke Mooring	30
2nd Colin Crosby	26
3rd Sam Sampson	26
4th Neil Marsh	26
5th Mark Rogers	25
6th Ben Cotter	24
7th Mark Hurcombe	24
8th Tom Wales	21
9th Mick Snelling	21
10th Nick May	20
11th Kerry Saint	20



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Hastings, Bexhill & District	Chris Pagan 07429 655237 Steve Potter 07935 268174
Postal enquiries: 53 Athelstan Road, Hastings TN35 5JF	
Haywards Heath & District AS	www.hdas.com info@hhdas.com
Linton Angling Society	Chris Knowler 07712 622858 chris@lintonangling.co.uk
Tonbridge & District A & FPS	Donna 07947 557140
PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB	
Wantsum Angling Association	robtuckbrown@hotmail.com Rob Tuck-Brown (secretary) 07484 144561

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