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## Hello and welcome to the February issue of the Freshwater Informer!

Let's begin with some good news! February is the shortest month of the year and it is the last month of winter! Hope that makes you feel better! From next month we are (technically!) in to Spring and the hope that this wonderful season offers. Although much depends on the weather, we have, at the time of writing, not fared too badly. It has been relatively mild for the time of year and I noticed in early January that the daffodils were already sprouting in the garden.

The fishing has been steady throughout the last few weeks with good numbers of anglers still getting out on to the banks and beaches throughout the South East. However, the sea anglers have found the fishing 'challenging' and having to work really hard to catch. Sadly this is going to be another memorable cod season, for the wrong reasons! Although one or two small fish have been caught, it has sadly amounted to very little. However, the thornbacks have been ashore in numbers, especially around the Sheppey coast so there have been fish to be caught. Again, depending on the weather, the plaice should start to make an appearance if conditions remain fairly settled. Let's hope Mother Nature doesn't catch us out with some wintry weather just when we thought we had escaped, like last year's Beast from the East!

It has been nice to receive a number of pike reports from the area with some good fish being landed to lures and dead baits. The best of these was captured at Buckland Lakes and tipped the scales at 32 lbs! It is believed that the big lake on the venue holds some real monsters and I don't doubt that at all given the size and depth of the lake!

The January issue saw the first River Informer section appear and I hope you enjoyed this new section of the magazine. I hope that you will send me your river reports and catches to place within this section. This month sees 'The Social' page make a debut. This page is for anglers who run their own non - angling businesses to highlight to other anglers the services that they can provide. Even as anglers, we all have jobs that need doing around the home so why not get another angler to help out? The cost for advertising in 'The Social' is just £25 per month, so it is an extremely cost effective way to showcase your business!

The Brentwood Carp Show took place at the end of January and, at the time of writing this, I hope to have said 'hello' to many of you who visited the show. The organisers promised that the 2019 Show would be the biggest and best Brentwood event to date with more space and exhibitors than ever before along with improved parking. I hope you were one of the lucky visitors who came to the Freshwater Informer stand and picked up one of our famous notepads and pens!

I am currently looking at the viability of taking the Freshwater Informer in to Essex. I posted on the Facebook page a little while ago my thoughts and wanted to gauge interest in this idea. Whenever attending the Brentwood Show, I am regularly asked by Essex anglers why can they not have the magazine there? The Facebook post resulted in lots of interest with a good number of suggestions as to which venue and shops might like to stock the magazine. Although there is still a lot more planning to consider, the idea is looking very promising indeed so watch this space!

Don't forget that the contact details for the magazine have now changed and the address is below. The new details are:

Office number: 01634 869317      Mobile number: 07722 025449  
Email: [barnic@btinternet.com](mailto:barnic@btinternet.com)

Enjoy your fishing, Barry Reed

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# Fishery Reports

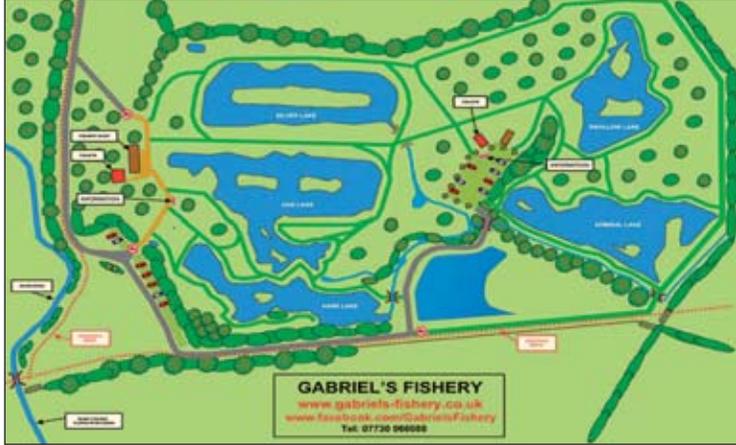
## Gabriels Fishery Edenbridge, Kent

The year has started with some cold but calm weather and hardly a drop of rain.

The fishing over the Christmas break has been remarkable. We've had a 25lb, 28lb and 24lb common carp come out from Admiral, alongside a mirror carp and some smaller common carp from the other lakes.

The river has also been busy with people catching pike, 6lb and 8lb jacks and a whopping 16lb pike came out over the Christmas and New Year period.

As always we would love to hear all about your catches and see your photos so please do keep sending them to us.



## Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey



Keith Major - 25-04 Snipe

Ben and I hope that you are all recovered from the Christmas and New Year festivities and are all eager to see some warmer weather so you can dust off your fishing gear and get back out on the bank. There have been some hardy souls that have continued to fish between December and mid January (as of writing this) what with the temperatures that have been mild for this time of year. Here at Beaver it has been quiet for anglers which has enabled Ben and I to undertake a large amount of maintenance work on and around the fishery.

### Here is a little run down of the work completed so far:

We started on Jeff's Lake and removed the damaged aerator fountain, cut back all the marginal growth and thinned out the reeds between swims 1 and 2 and repaired and wood chipped the swims. Then we moved onto Moat Pond and cut back the marginal growth on the island and on the bankside margins, repaired the swims that needed repairing and wood chipped all the swims. Then it was onto Eden Pond where we again cut back the marginal growth on the islands and around the pond and also cut back a lot of over-hanging tree branches above and around where anglers' cast. After Eden Pond was completed, we moved onto Maze Lake which involved Ben and I dropping down the water level so we could net the lake and complete a stock check. We removed a few small pike and put them into Majors Lake and while the water level was down we cut back any over-hanging trees on the islands and the near margins, removed any under water snags, cut back all marginal growth, repaired swims that needed it and wood chipped all of the 25 swims. As soon as Maze Lake was completed we then moved on to Daughters Lake where we cut back over hanging branches on the trees that line the far margin, cut back all the marginal growth, removed any snags that were in the water and wood chipped all of the swims.

We started this winter work in November and we plan to complete the same maintenance work on Snipe Lake, Tuscany Lake and Majors Lake before March. Please note that all lakes are open whilst we carry out the winter maintenance.

Also, on a very positive note, well done to **Keith Major** who landed a mirror on Snipe Lake that was stocked in at 16lb 2oz and weighed in at 25lb 4oz when he banked it on 6th Jan. We hope that the new stockies follow suit and it shows that it's exciting times ahead for Snipe Lake.

## Tricklebrook Fishery Five Oak Green, Kent

Tricklebrook Fishery is nestled in the beautiful Kent countryside. This fantastic coarse fishery consists of two very well stocked lakes. A 4 acre specimen lake is stocked with big catfish up to 50lbs, huge carp up to 40lbs, big perch up to 6lbs and beautiful roach up to 3lbs. There is also a one acre match lake teeming with a variety of fish! Don't forget that our NEW lake is due to open in September 2019! Here is a small sample of recent catches:-



Colin - 27lb



Mikey - 30lb



Anthony Moon - 36lb

## Iden Wood Fishery Iden, Rye, East Sussex

**SPRING LAKE** - Major clearing work has been undertaken during the Autumn months, clearing both islands of overhanging trees, giving more access to the far banks. Carp are showing more in the open water as a result, corn and maggot proving to be the best baits. Perch to 2lb have been taken on prawn, with roach and skimmers being taken in the deeper swims on maggot.

**MATCH LAKE** - Work has also been done to clear trees on this lake, and opening up the margin swims. Catches have been good, with the best carp over the Christmas period coming out at 24lb. Two matches lately have produced top weights of 94lb and 84lb, consisting mostly of carp, but bream, skimmers and roach have also shown in the back up weights. Maggot is definitely the top bait, but corn is also producing. Prawn is the top bait for some quality perch.

**MIDDLE LAKE** - As with the Spring and Match Lakes, we have trimmed back all the overhanging branches on the island so that poles can fish tight over, this has improved catches, carp, skimmers and roach all feeding well.

**SPECIMEN LAKE** - Carp to 26lb has been taken in the last month, small baits once again proving the best bet. A recent match produced a catch of 39lb of carp on pole fished maggot. Perch are feeding on overcast days, prawn or worm over chopped worm the best tactics.

**ORCHARD LAKE** - Fish close to the reed bed for carp to 20lb, once again maggot and corn the best way to go. Some quality roach have been caught on the pole with maggot, caster and bread punch. A few perch have been showing on the dam end against the willow bushes.



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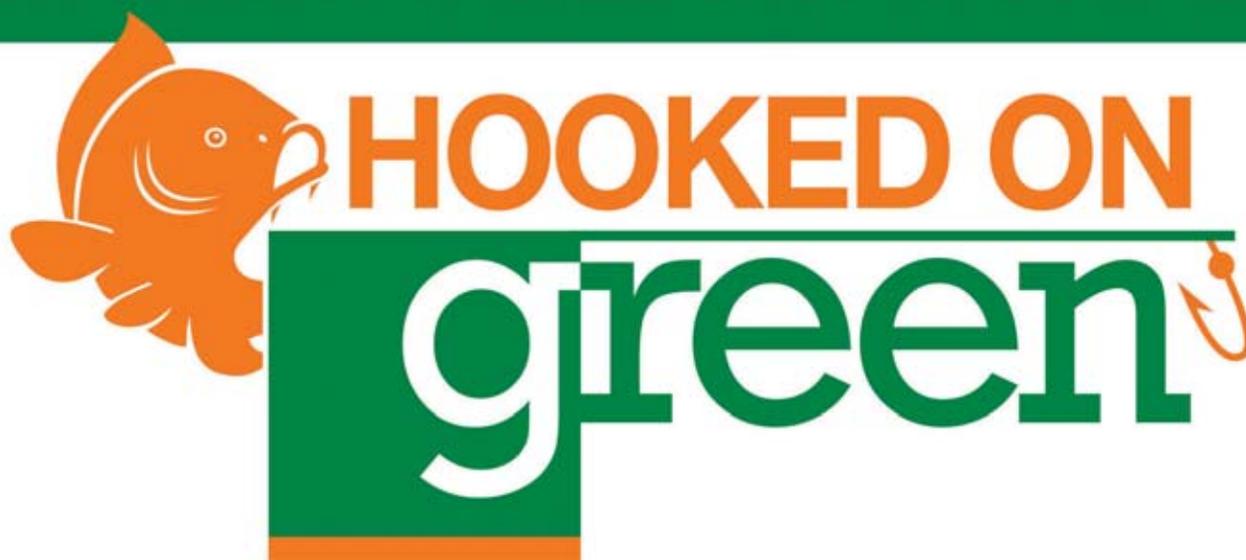


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# Fishery Reports

## Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society



Jason Craven - Weirwood Perch

Fishing has been a lot slower during the last few weeks. The Carp fishing on Barden Lake has really slowed up but a few 20lb+ fish have been caught. Club Bailiff, **Cheddar** had a really productive spell before the cold snap came. He caught a couple of forty pound fish as well as several other good fish in the thirty pound bracket. The Pike fishing has been a bit hit and miss on all of our waters. A few smaller Pike have come out of the river behind Barden and a report of a twenty pounder from the mid section of our water by a Day ticket angler. **Austin Battell** had a nice 18lb 15oz Croc from Barden before Christmas, backed up by 4 other fish to 9lb over two days. Weirwood has produced some nice fish to regular Kayak anglers, a couple of low twenties being the pick of the bunch. Perch fishing has been tougher too, with only a few better fish to 2lb+ being reported.

Society Match Secretary **Martyn Hill** had a good result in the Christmas Match, winning with a very respectable weight of 13lb 12oz. This consisted of a two lovely Bream, the biggest being 8lb 15oz. Some other good match weights also recorded include **Tony Crossley's** 13lb from the Sportsground which was all Roach. **Ray Allen** won the New Year Match with 14lb 10oz also from the Sportsground. The New Lagoon is still fishing fairly well, you can always get plenty of bites on there. Venue **Bailiff Bill** catches most species on a good mixture of hookbaits. One of the stocked Carp came out at 15lb 4oz recently which shows a tremendous growth rate. We also photographed a Roach of exactly 3lb just before Christmas so watch this space for a real corker soon.



Austin Battell - 18lb 15oz Pike



Martyn Hill - 8lb 15oz River Medway Match Bream

### 18/11/18 HOUGHTON CUP 4 - SPORTSGROUND

- 1st Tony Crossley 13lb 0oz
- 2nd Stuart Cottingham 7lb 8oz
- 2nd Stuart White 7lb 8oz
- 2nd Ditch Howard 7lb 8oz

### 25/11/18 WINTER ROVER - VEXOR BRIDGE

- 1st Colin Fowler 7lb 3oz
- 2nd Martyn Hill 3lb 0oz
- 3rd Ray Berry 2lb 9oz

### 9/12/18 - XMAS MATCH - BUNGALOWS

- 1st Martyn Hill 13lb 12oz
- 2nd Bob Doyle 7lb 13oz
- 3rd Ray Allen 1lb 5oz
- 4th Dave Lee 1lb 2oz

### 16/12/18 A.C.A CUP - HARTLAKE UP

- 1st Tony Crossley 5lb 14oz
- 2nd Ditch Howard 2lb 13oz
- 3rd Tony Hyland 2lb 5oz

### 6/1/19 NEW YEAR MATCH - SPORTSGROUND

- 1st Ray Allen 14lb 10oz
- 2nd Mick Smith 7lb 6oz
- 3rd Tony Hyland 5lb 9oz

### 13/1/19 HOUGHTON CUP 5 - HARTLAKE UP

- 1st Colin Fowler 7lb 15oz
- 2nd Tony Crossley 7lb 14oz
- 3rd Roger Trask 4lb 7oz

## Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hawkhurst, Kent

All lakes are re-opening as of 1st February (apart from Junior Lakes which will open 16th February for the school half term). The Specimen Lake has remained open as usual, but has been largely unfished, with only a couple of members braving the cold weather. None of our lakes were drained this year, meaning all the fish have had a break from being caught. Let's see what 2019 has to offer!

## Wylands International AC Battle, East Sussex



new stock

With mixed weather throughout the last month, January has made for some interesting fishing conditions. Kell lake has produced a 37lb common and quite a few mid 20lb carp throughout the month. House lake is producing a lot of mid doubles. More fish have been caught in shallower water recently. Old and new speci have been very popular throughout this winter and in turn we have had some great catch reports. New speci produced a 26lb common to one very lucky day angler. Dave Harland landed 4 carp up to 22lb in his session. Fish on this lake seem to be moving around and feeding well. The third round of the carp cup was held on Old Speci with Paul Lawton securing his place in the final with 51lb. There are two qualifying rounds left, to participate please speak to a member of staff or full details can be found on our Facebook page.

Snake lake Open Match runs every other Sunday with great bags still being weighed in despite the colder weather. To take part or for more information please contact a member of staff. Snake lake is also fantastic for some pleasure fishing when matches are not running. Middle lake has been closed throughout the winter period. We have drained and cleaned out the lake. It is now undergoing a restocking programme with fresh carp. All going well we hope to reopen the lake in March. 2019 accommodation packages now being taken. Book your holiday early to avoid disappointment. The cafe and tackle shop continue to be open Tues to Sunday throughout the winter. Exclusive lake hire available prices vary. For more information please call 01424893394.



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# Fishery Reports

## Mousehole Lakes Paddock Wood, Kent



# Mousehole Lakes

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## FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT IN THE SOUTH EAST CAN YOU HELP?



Thanks to freshwater and non-migratory trout rod-licence income, through the National Angling Strategic Services Contract, the Angling Trust has partnered with the Environment Agency to provide the Fisheries Enforcement Support Service – and now, South East Regional Enforcement Manager Dave Wilkins needs your help!

**Have you seen people fishing illegally?**

**Have you witnessed criminal activity while out fishing?**

**Do you know of people fishing without a licence?**

Dave is a life-long angler who especially enjoys pike fishing on the rivers of Sussex. Having retired from Sussex Police after thirty years' service, Dave is now able to use that experience to good effect for the benefit of angling. His work involves raising awareness, informing and educating SE police forces regarding fisheries related crime, and helping coordinate a joined-up response. Dave works closely with the region's EA Fisheries Enforcement Officers, who are supported by the SE Voluntary Bailiff Service – managed by Dave: 73 anglers trained as "eyes and ears", reporting incidents and information to a high evidential standard. The system is 'intelligence-led', so this is vital, enabling the EA and police to deploy limited resources effectively. Importantly, in the SE we also have seven carefully selected Volunteer Bailiffs who have received further training and are empowered to check rod-licences and deal with certain fisheries offences. These volunteers are embedded in and work directly with EA enforcement teams, enabling the professionals to devote more time to investigations.

Moreover, across the SE, Surrey, Sussex Police and Hampshire Police are all signed up to Operation TRAVERSE – the Angling Trust initiated national initiative targeting illegal fishing and fish theft. Kent Police will be joining the Operation in February 2019, and we are liaising with



the region's other forces. The FESS also includes the Angling Trust's 'Building Bridges' Project, aimed at educating and integrating migrant anglers from central and eastern Europe, which is active throughout the SE. 'BB' can provide your fisher with multi-lingual signage and leaflets, and even translate angling club or fishery rules – all for FREE!

As a direct result of information from anglers and the public, joint patrols with the VBS, EA and police regularly take place across the region to target problem areas in an intelligence led process. And should anglers report incidents but, for whatever reason, not receive an appropriate level of service, all they have to do is let Dave know, who can contact the authorities and put things right.

**What can you do?** If you see it, report it!

Please contact the EA on 0800 80 70 60 (the number is on your rod-licence) to report incidents or offences in progress, pollution or any other relevant information. If you see a crime in progress call 999 - or 101 if reporting after the event. In each case mention Operation TRAVERSE.

The Angling Trust hopes to recruit more volunteers for the VBS later in the year so if you are interested please contact Dave on: -david.wilkins@anglingtrust.net

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# Fishery Reports

## Elphicks Fisheries Horsmonden, Kent



Alex Shipley North Lake 01.19

**NORTH LAKE** is still producing in these winter months. **Robbie Lock** had a 33lb 5oz mirror. **Sid** had a common of 36lb and mirrors of 34lb and 25lb. **Alec Shipley** had mirrors of 27lb 4oz, 28lb, 29lb and 37lb 2oz. **Reece Constable** had mirrors of 23lb and 40lb 12. Also a 34lb 4 oz common.



Robbie Locke 33lb 5oz North Lake 01.19

**PLANTATION LAKE** has not seen much angling action since we opened. **Alan Tait** had a mirror of 25lb 2oz. **Simon Dales** had mirrors of 23lb and 18lb.

**PRAIRIE LAKE** has slowed a little this January. **Greg Roberts** had mirrors of 29lb and 27lb. **Darren Watts** had a 19lb 4oz common and a 21lb mirror. **Lee Adams** had commons of 18lb and 26lb. Also a 30lb 5oz mirror

**SANDWICH LAKE** is producing carp to pva bags and a small method feeder. Silvers coming out on bread and maggots. **Mr Excellent** still taking carp off the top.

**KETTLES LAKE** is fishing a little harder this month. **George Mcauan** had mirrors of 22lb 3oz and 16lb 10z. **Rob Lane** had 6 carp to 19lb on hemp and maggots. **Stephen McCarthy** had carp to 21lb 6oz on 10mm boilies.



George McAvan 16lb 10oz Kettles Lake 12.18



George McAvan 22lb 3oz Kettles Lake 12.18

**PULLENS LAKE** has still produced fish through January. **Derk James** had mirrors of 35lb and 30lb 2oz. **Richie Drake** had a 35lb mirror over small pellets. **Mark Welbourne** had a 19lb mirror.

**WEST END LAKE** has fished slow these past months. **Karl Lighting** had a 33lb mirror.

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email: [info@elphicks-fisheries.co.uk](mailto:info@elphicks-fisheries.co.uk)



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# ANGLERS NATIONAL LINE RECYCLING SCHEME

## Every metre matters.....!

So, as we are sat there on the bank, aboard a boat or stood on the shingle in pursuit of the fish that we desire, recycling will be far from our mind. But should it be? Whether your chosen venue be a stillwater, a river or the sea, as anglers we enjoy the environment we are in and as users of the natural world we surely should take steps to protect it.

We all know the feeling where the excitement of the new season approaches, and we dust off the kit in preparation. Whether this be for the start of the river season, the first knockings of spring, the first coolness of the winter or the return of a favourite species to the coast - we all start with the anticipation of hooking the fish of the season, or even a lifetime. After all, that's one of the many reasons we undertake this pastime or for many, an obsession. Rods cleaned, reels serviced, bait ordered, batteries replaced, tackle box restocked, brew kit replenished and finally new line purchased - to ensure that special fish doesn't escape when the pressure is on. Stripping one, two, three or multiple reels is undoubtedly one of the bores of this preparation and we all have our ways of doing it. Line strippers, home made contraptions or simply hand over hand and a massive pile of mono on the kitchen floor, are just a few of the methods. One friend even managed a technique that involved his Labrador, a tennis ball and a Hoover..... I'll leave that one to your imagination!



What have you done with it? ..... be honest..... I would imagine most of us have bundled it up, a few will cut it into smaller lengths and others will go even further to make it less likely to endanger wildlife. The one thing we have all been guilty of is that we all tend to put this unwanted line into the rubbish bin and then its forgotten about. This always ends up in landfill or being incinerated as even if you put it in your recycling bin, local councils don't recycle nylon or braid.

Thinking back to 15 years ago your recycling bin would often only contain a few bottles and perhaps the Thompson Local directory, whilst the normal waste wheelie would always be far larger and often full up. Fast forward to 2018 and that scenario has reversed in most households where bins for waste food, plastics, glass and tins outnumber general waste bins considerably. We have adapted to this, and thankfully so; as we are now very aware of what impact plastics are having on the wider environment. So, if we can adapt to this then surely, as anglers, we can change and make a difference in terms of recycling the obvious hazard of redundant fishing line?

The time it takes for every day materials to biodegrade are widely published such as a plastic water bottle can taking 450 years to biodegrade. If my research is correct, then the first drink bottle was commercially manufactured in 1947 so we can expect that to be broken down by the year 2397...yes read that date again!

So, what about fishing line you may be asking now? Well tests have shown that 60lb mono will take about 600 years to degrade fully but, as with any plastic, this still breaks down to become 'micro plastics'. Next time you are on the bank have a look at your reels and what breaking strain of line in pounds you have on them..... now times that by ten years and consider that your line will still be around then.

DuPont marketed the first commercial nylon fishing line in 1939 so given the 10 year per lb rule above that would mean that any line of above 10lbs produced back then would still be in existence, whether that's at the bottom of the sea or in landfill. Now what about everything that we have used, binned and discarded since?

Recycling is now part of all our daily lives and the benefits of preventing line ending up in landfill or being incinerated are obvious. As anglers, we treasure the environments that we fish in and the wildlife found around them, so line recycling demonstrates the responsibility of the angling community towards the issue of unwanted or lost line to the public as well.

In March 2018 the Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme (ANLRS) was launched by a small group of passionate sea anglers known as Local Independent Sea Anglers (LISA) after starting it on a local basis in Sussex in 2016. This initial scheme was, and still is, the only angling line recycling scheme in the UK and has identified a traceable route for the recycling of both monofilament and braided lines. It is run on a non-profit, volunteer lead basis and supported solely through donations from anglers and the angling industry.

An online survey carried out in partnership with the Global Ghost Gear Initiative, indicated that anglers in the UK may use as much as 1.25 million kilometres of line every year. That's enough to go to the moon, home again - and then back to the moon!

Since early 2018 the ANLRS has signed up over 180 shops, that service various angling disciplines, across the UK and all have recycling bins in place where you can take your old line or braid along and 'bin it' properly. Many of these retailers are offering incentives for those that recycle their line with them. This can be a free cup of tea, free stripping and respooling or a discount of new line purchases that day in the shop. Added to this some 20 plus fisheries, several charter boats, two fisheries colleges and even two Norwegian fishing camps have also signed up.

Tackle manufacturers are now signing up to support the scheme and various businesses and organisations have helped with donations to allow the production of marketing materials such as flyers and the ANLRS stickers the shops display. In November, the multi-national Insurance company, Sunderland Marine became a sponsor and donated £1000 to the scheme and joins the likes of Linear Fisheries, Gardner Tackle and Aardvark Mcleod, who have also signed up as supporters. As the popularity of the scheme has grown the Angling Trust has now pledged its support to promote the scheme both within the UK and Europe.

In the short period since the scheme went national it has collected over 1,250,000m of line for recycling and, as participation, grows this amount will grow very quickly each year. As the scheme's motto says this is "something the whole of angling can agree on" and anglers can easily do their bit by recycling their old lines. Once collected the discarded line is currently being sent to a company in Denmark, that is a specialist on recycling plastics, where it is reprocessed into a product called EcoNyl that is used to produce various things such as traffic cones, wetsuits and now sunglass frames.



The scheme is now working with British based recyclers to develop recycling within the UK and the ultimate hope is to be able to use the recycled material to produce angling related items. As the scheme can now take braided lines and fly lines alongside the more common monofilament lines for recycling it can now offer the ability to recycle all the types of lines that the various disciplines of angling use.

### How can you get involved in recycling line?

As an angler it's very simple..... visit the schemes website [www.anglers-nlrs.co.uk](http://www.anglers-nlrs.co.uk) and have a look on the Recycling Locations page where it will show you your local shops and venues that are part of the scheme and have bins at their locations. Alternatively, you will find a postal address on the site where you can send the line to us directly. Very soon the scheme will be carrying out a postage envelope scheme in conjunction with angling organisations and manufacturers - so watch this space and keep an eye on our website.

If you find your local shop isn't already signed up, then why not try and encourage them into joining up? All it costs them is the price of a recycling bin and five minutes to register via the form on the website. Any shop is welcome to join no matter how big or small!

Do you run a tackle shop, fishery or are a tackle manufacturer and want to support the ANLRS? Simply get in contact with us via the website and we are more than happy to discuss how you can get involved.

**For more information, our mission statement, and contact details please visit the website or email us at [anglersnlrs@gmail.com](mailto:anglersnlrs@gmail.com)**

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# THE BAIT SHED



By Roy Lawler



THE BAIT SHED IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY  
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**With the turkey eaten and decorations packed away for another year, Roy has been down the garden in the Bait Shed for his first article of 2019. Many anglers put their gear away until the Spring but, as Roy says, with the right bait success could be just a 'bleep' away! Here is Roy's winter recipe to try this January:**

In last month's article we looked at an 'old school' winter recipe, so I thought I would again look back in to carp fishing's early days and one bait that crept in again and again was the 'Floater' cake. Many of you may ask what this is and quite simply, it is a home made floating cake mix for surface fishing. After finding myself a recipe and armed with all the ingredients on my list, I dipped my toe into the 'old school' bait world once again.

### For the recipe you will need:

- 150g Bread Flour
- 100g Cornmeal
- 100g Milk Powder
- 100g Wheat Flour/Micronized wheat
- 50g Coconut Flour
- 6 Large Eggs
- 20ml Flavouring
- 10ml Glycerine
- 2tsp Baking Powder
- 1tsp Brewers Yeast
- 1tsp Table Salt
- 1tsp Powdered Food Colouring (optional)



To start with, measure out and mix all your dry ingredients together. I did this in a large ziplock bag where I placed all the ingredients in the bag, fastened it and shook the bag until they were fully mixed together. Then mix your 6 eggs with your flavouring and glycerine and any food colouring you may be using. Once your liquids are fully mixed together then slowly start to add your dry ingredients, mixing as you go, until you have what almost resembles a thick pancake mix. Grease/line the tin you will be using before pouring your mixture in. I cooked mine at 150°C for around 40 minutes, allowed it to cool before cutting it into chunks.



These chunks then can either be threaded onto your hair with possibly a bit of tubing to help it stay on or just hooked through the crust and away you go!



I have also read that if you wanted to use your own boilie base mix in this way

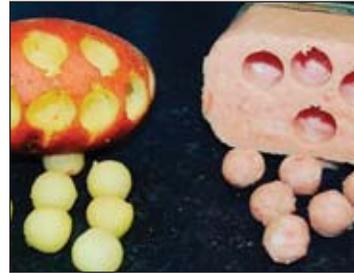
then 6 eggs, 500g of your base mix, glycerine, brewers yeast, baking powder and salt will do the job.

For the second part of this month's article and staying along the lines of something a little different, I have also been playing with this little gadget:

It is a 'Bell Ball Cutter'! While many of us use spam etc in our daily fishing routine, I love the



idea of getting them boilie shaped. I have tried this little gadget out with spam, potatoes and cheese and found it to be brilliant.



You simply slowly push it into your chosen bait and then twist the handle a few times, before pulling it back out, giving you a perfect sphere to use as you require. These little balls of bait can be made on the bank or prepared the day before and then coated in any flavour or attractor that you require. I have coated these potato ones in CC Moores red hot chilli powder and they really do look and smell good and I'm sure taste just as impressive!

With Christmas now behind us and Spring fast approaching, I will be adding both of these methods into my arsenal of tactics for the coming year as well as in my two French adventures starting in April over at Carpscape. I shall between now and our next issue be preparing my boilies etc for this trip across the water as I'm sure many of you will be starting to do!



If you fancy having a go yourself then we would love to see your pictures of the bait itself or captures that you may have with it, along with any updates etc on your own home made bait.

## INGREDIENT OF THE MONTH...

### BAF / British aqua feeds extra hot chilli powder

This is a must in most of my own mixes, as personally, I love a spicy boilie.

It is one of the very best spices to use within the manufacture of fishing bait. Chilli powder contains a whole list of vitamins and minerals, notably Vitamin A. One of chilli powder's best properties is Capsaicin. Capsaicin is said to be habit forming when used in human/animal feeds due to the alkaloid content, quite possibly why it can be so addictive to fish over a period of time! Use up to 5% of your total mix.



**See you next month in The Bait Shed, where the kettle is always on!**

Many of the ingredients and equipment that you need to join Roy in the Bait Shed can be found at The Tackle Shop, 44, Seal Road, Sevenoaks, Kent. TN14 5AR. Tel: 01732 454952. The Tackle Shop Sevenoaks is a small independent shop with easy access from the M25 and M26 in the heart of some of the best fishing in the county. We sell tackle that covers all fishing techniques, so whether you are into carp, match, coarse, sea, predator or fly fishing, we cover it all. We stock all major brands! Give us a call today!

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I am absolutely delighted to welcome Pallatrax as the new sponsors of our Catch Reports Section. This section is where you display your catch to other Freshwater Informer readers. 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.** The lucky angler will have a packet of sizes 2,4,6,8,10, 12,14 and 16, so will be equipped for all eventualities. This fantastic prize is worth over £40 RRP!

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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.



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# Fishery Reports

## Tanyard Fisheries Uckfield, East Sussex

We hope you all had a merry Christmas and a very happy new year, We also wish you luck throughout 2019!

**COARSE POOL 1** - Taylor landed a nice 4lb Bream

**COARSE LAKE 3** - Les had a good day landing five Perch all under 2lb. Mike landed three Tench biggest of 5lb and one Perch of 2lb. Melvin landed three Bream, his biggest was 7lb while his brother Trevor landed two Bream one of 3lb and one of 5lb and also a Perch of 2lb

**SPECIMEN LAKE 1** - Andrew came for a winter's day and landed four Pike, the biggest of 14lb using jelly lure. Shaun in our first week of opening landed three Pike with the biggest of 13lb also using jelly lure. Jake Thew landed a lovely 25lb Common Carp using pop ups.



Taylor



Jake Thew

# Tanyard Fisheries

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We are a commercial day ticket fishery and have 2 Specimen Lakes, 3 Coarse Lakes and 3 Ponds.  
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### SPECIMEN LAKE 2 3.5 acres

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

### MATCH / PLEASURE LAKE 1.5 acres

2 rods - £12 per Adult     £10 for over 65's & Juniors  
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#### Species present in our lakes

- Common Carp up to 45lb • Mirror Carp 43lb+ • Ghost Carp 36lb+
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- Perch 6lb+ also F1's, Rudd, Roach and Chub

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# River Informer

## Welcome to the River Informer!

The first River Informer section appeared last month (January) and I am delighted that so many of you got in touch saying how much you enjoyed the new part of the magazine. I had a gentleman write to me saying how much he enjoyed Jim Smith's piece about his lifetime's work and fishing on the Sussex Ouse. I am pleased to tell you that Jim is back again this month with another Countryman's View! Colin Etherington has had a very happy new year already as you will see from his catch reports. Not to be put off by the water conditions, Colin ventured out and was well rewarded. Daniel Terry, who normally reports on the Medway in the Sea Informer, has swapped sea water for freshwater and bagged some lovely pike from the Medway! Our resident contributor Bob Morris has another great offering in Medway Man.

I am always delighted to receive your River catch reports for this section so please send them in. If you are a business and would like to sponsor this section then I would love to hear from you! Give me a call on 01634 869317, email or message on the Facebook page.

## COLIN GETS A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR ON THE SUSSEX OUSE!

Colin Etherington got in touch following a pre - festive river session. Despite several days of heavy rain, Colin wasn't put off by the conditions. Colin told me: "The Sussex Ouse was raging again today and this fantastic chub slipped into my net after giving a proper account of itself! Four lob worms held in place by plastic maggots did the trick and the chub produced the only bite of a 3 hour session! I hope all of my friends had a great Christmas and tight lines to everyone out during 2019!"



Not long after the chub capture, Colin was back out on the river: "My first cast of 2019 and boom - my rod hooped over and I was into a decent fish that tore about all round the pool! Tackling the Sloop Weir on the Ouse with 3 lobs, I banked a double figure barbel weighing 10lb 8oz!"



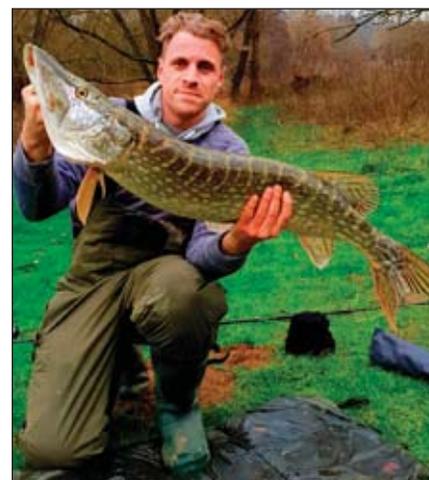
Colin told me he was "well happy"! He has every right to be!

"Well, what a start to 2019!! Another short 4 hour session on the Sussex Ouse resulted in another hoop over on the rods and I netted this lovely conditioned barbel weighing 9lb 4oz! Lob worms again doing the business with a small pva mesh bag with maggots and pellet!"



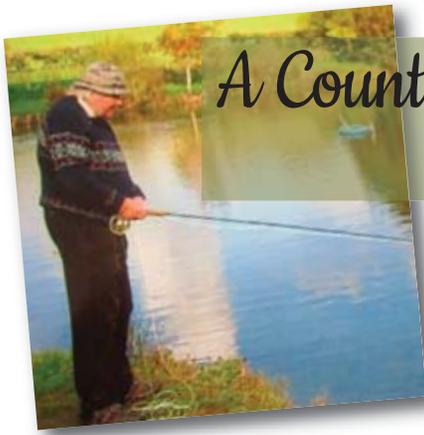
## NICE MEDWAY PIKE FOR DANIEL!

Daniel Terry generally supplies the magazine with a report from the salty part of the River Medway! However, Daniel fancied a change and set off to the Medway's freshwater end in the hunt for pike and he wasn't disappointed!



Daniel told me: "Andy and I decided to have another go on the Medway again for the pike as we had enjoyed a previous pike fishing session so much. Compared with catching numerous small whiting, this type of fishing is somewhat different! I remembered to pack the weigh scales for this session! It was a tougher session this time, especially as it was so cold, and Andy didn't do as well. However, I had three runs and although I lost one at the net, I managed to land two fish, a tubby one at 17lbs 12 ozs and one at 14lbs 9ozs. I was pretty chuffed!"





# A Countryman's View

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

Welcome once again to the second part of Jim Smith's articles where lifelong countryman Jim takes a look at the Sussex countryside and rivers. I do hope that you enjoyed the first of his articles in the January edition of the magazine!

"A winter's morning walk on the banks of the River Ouse and it's tributaries is always a great pleasure both for the fishing and the wildlife. I usually take a small pair of binoculars with me and on this particular day my notice was drawn to an area at the side of a stream where sea trout regularly spawn. I wondered if the disturbance had been caused by a fox so I waited quietly and watched. Sure enough a fox appeared with a dead kelt (a kelt is a sea trout that has spawned and died). The fox emerged from the undergrowth complete with his lunch of a fish that looked around 4lbs. This fish, I am sure, was one of a pair that I had seen earlier. Anyhow, the fox disappeared with the sea trout and I could see the completed redd and the fox prints in the silt at the stream's edge. This has happened before when the fish have been spawning in this locality although I hadn't seen the remains of the fish so I guess the fox had gone to ground with his lunch! It is quite a common occurrence to hear the foxes calling at night in our village.



sea trout spawning

The River Ouse now looks so much different after some winter rain and is flowing clearly being fed by the numerous side streams. Like so many of our rivers, abstraction from this source for drinking water has been over prevalent for some time. With so much building going on this congested corner of the country and the subsequent need for sewage disposal, one fears as to the long term damage that is being caused. Sewage pollution happens all too often throughout the country, along with over abstraction of water that this region is described as a Water Depleted Area, but, still new estates are built with abandon!



river water abstraction

The bird life in the valley has been active feeding on the various wild berries in the hedgerows. I have watched intently at a flock of field hares looking for food. A flock is made up of at least fifty birds. This area is popular with redwings and many have been noted on the grasslands in their search for worms, but, they are also prone to feeding on the wild berries. Around Black Thorne I have seen a Great Grey Shrike, which is a rarity and not often seen in these parts.

As I continue my walk, I hear an approaching kingfisher and watch in awe as it



Great Grey Shrike



Redwing

flashes past me on it's journey up river. A cormorant is seen fishing and as I approach it flies off towards the coast. This part of the river normally holds dace, especially in the summer months, so I guess that was the reason for his visit. A rarity these days is a pair of English Partridge that I observed, I only hope that they are left alone!

A bit further along the bank are a pair of pike anglers who tell me that a fish of 15 lbs had been caught there by a friend recently on a dead bait. In a wet area near the river I noticed a pair of snipes and a little further away a kestrel is perched on a wooden fence post. As I progress along the bank I see a couple of buzzards floating on the thermals, absolutely majestic birds in flight!



English Partridge



Kestrel

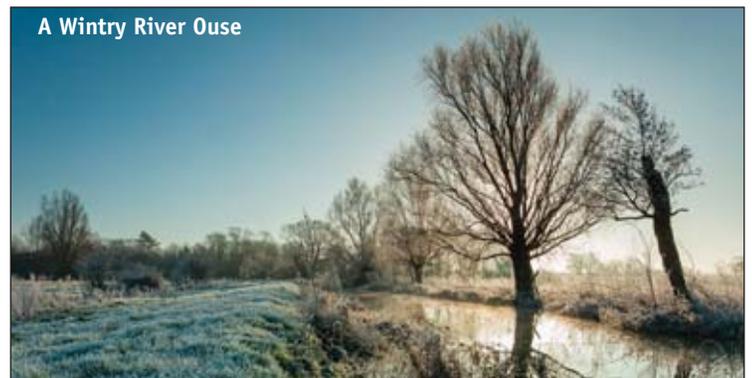
An angler fishing alone tells me he has caught some roach and perch that morning on worm. The angler tells me likes to rove along the river making a few casts here and there in likely looking spots. Whilst chatting away, two large skeins of geese fly over very high heading towards Pagham Harbour or Farlington Marshes near Portsmouth. Sometime later I come across an angler fishing for pike with a fly. No doubt great sport with the right tackle and line. This angler knew what he was about. The river had fined down a lot as it was in flood just before Christmas.

Fishing is a great hobby and I feel that more time should be taken on what is going on around you. In my opinion, this is half the fun of going fishing. Anglers are the guardians of our rivers, lakes and ponds. We must all do whatever we can to protect these unique habitats, especially the rivers and make our voices heard at all levels. If you ever see anything that you are unhappy about or just not sure that it looks right, please report it on 0800 807060. It is a Freephone number and is printed on your rod licence. My morning's walk was rewarding with the abundant nature all around and after fifty years living by, working on and fishing in the River, it never ceases to give me pleasure. By looking after our rivers now, we can pass this amazing natural environment on to future generations to enjoy. However, we must stand our ground over the continuing over abstraction of water, pollution and poaching."

**Cheerio for now, Jim**



Skein of Geese



A Wintry River Ouse

# Medway Man

## Bob Morris

**One of the best feelings we can get during the pursuit of this great hobby of ours is when we manage to increase our catches or opportunities by doing something a bit different or working out why something is not working properly for us. I get a real buzz if I know that by changing the area that I am targetting or improving my tackle/ tactics in some way has led to more regular action and fish on the bank.**



Another decent pike on Bob's elastic hair rig

At the risk of droning on too much about my pike fishing efforts and turning this into a sort of predator column, I must divulge some more info about my further experiments with end tackle and rigs. One of the recurring problems that I have seen over the last couple of seasons has been the number of dropped takes and fish that have come adrift shortly after being hooked. My piking pal John has, if anything, suffered more in this regard than myself recently, with one or two fish even shedding the hook after a minute or so - by which time you might assume that it must be well on. I would like to say that my current end rig - incorporating a single hook and a hair rig has sorted out this problem but it appears not to be the case.

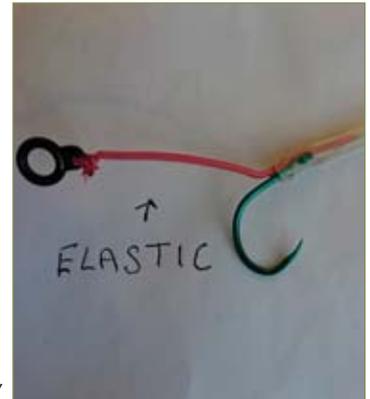


First pike on the new rig

Frequently our baits have come back totally unmarked and although it is possible that the pike are not feeding confidently and are perhaps holding the baits very lightly - even just in the edge of the mouth, I find this hard to believe, especially with the very small chopped baits that I have been using. If the baits are being taken right into the pike's mouth then why is it proving so difficult to hook them properly? The dropped takes could well be as a result of the pike feeling resistance from float, lead, drag on the line etc, which is another factor but the lack of a decent hook hold has been a puzzle. Recently however, I have had another theory and this

revolves around whether or not the bait is being gripped tightly by the pike. It could well be that if the bait, of whatever size or method of attachment, is being clamped firmly in the pike's jaws, it may not be free enough for the hooks to then be set. In this case it could be possible to play the fish for a minute or so before losing it when the pike releases its grip and just shakes the bait free.

My potential solution to this problem is to make my hair rigs from elastic, which should, in theory, allow the hook to move at least a couple of inches and therefore hook the pike. I have only just started to experiment with this tactic but so far two takes have both resulted in upper double figure pike landed and as usual, with my single hook rigs, just hooked nicely in the scissors. I will report on any further developments and results/ conclusions regarding this ploy shortly.



Bob's 'Elastic' Hair Rig



Pike come into shallower water to spawn



Frogs and pike often spawn at the same time

This is also the time of year when the pike start to get ready to spawn and this means that they will be leaving the deeper water and moving closer to the margins on most of the larger waters. The timing of this varies from year to year depending on weather conditions and it is likely that if we are re-visited by the 'Beast from the East' this winter that it will be later rather than earlier. I always reckon however, that when the frogs start to get frisky in my garden pond that the pike are usually 'at it' as well. Hardly a scientific gauge but often surprisingly accurate.

Best Fishes & Improved Tactics  
Bob Morris



## Piscatorial Politics

The Springtime is often a time when anglers start to renew their attack on the freshwater fish population and also find a fresh enthusiasm for the pastime/sport of angling. It is also frequently a time when angling clubs and organisations choose to hold their Annual General Meetings. The idea of this is, of course, to allow their members to have a say and to vote on the major issues that the club will/may face during the coming year or so. Everyday

issues and problems are, rightly, left to the elected committee to decide on. This all sounds very democratic - as indeed it should. Unfortunately, in my view, the AGM has now become an outdated institution and often does little to sort out the club's problems - sometimes quite the reverse. The reason is that almost invariably only a small percentage of the members actually attend. The problem with this is that it is then easy for a small group of like-minded- members to attend an AGM and change the direction of a club's policies or activities - either in support of the current committee/ administration's recommendations or against. The days of being able to say "if you don't turn up to the meeting, then you won't get a say" are long gone - or should be. Many club's book a hall for their AGM that would struggle to hold even a third of the membership. This is not a criticism, it's just the way it is. In these days of IT and digital communication, surely we should be moving toward having all club members being able to vote on major issues via their phones, tablets or pc's. If it is possible to do it for X-Factor?? I am sure that this system will soon start to be adopted in one form or another. What we must not allow to happen however, is for the current administration to ask for a second vote/referendum, if they are not happy with the outcome of the first!

*Mmmm sounds familiar? If this does occur, then we can look forward to 'civil unrest' within the club membership - which in turn could lead to 'Piscatorial Purgatory'!*

## PIKE HUNTER COMPETITION AT MONK LAKES

Just before Christmas, Monk Lakes Fishery held it's Pike Hunter competition at the fishery.

The match was fished on Puma, Bridges, Mallard and the river that runs around the fishery.

"The winner of the Pike Hunter competition was Mr Phil Cowley - Jones .Phil had the overall heaviest weight, landing 7 Pike in total and took the cash prize. Bex Nelson landed a new PB and last year's runner up, Kelly Crush, came close again to taking the prize pot. There were 23 pike caught in total from all competitors, but unfortunately none of the real big big residents showed their heads.

We hope everyone enjoyed the day and we would like to say thank you to you all for taking part. We hope to see you all again next year's event."



Bex Nelson



Kelly Crush



Phil Cowley-Jones

www.BobMorrisCustomRods.co.uk

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## Bob's New Year Bargains

<p><b>Pair of Original Century Armalite MKI's, 12ft 2 1/4lb Test Curve, 'BM Built' with Full Cork Handles, Fuji Rings &amp; Reel Seats.</b></p> <p><b>Ex Stock ONLY 2 Left!</b></p> <p><b>£220 each or £430 for 2.</b></p>	<p><b>'BM Built' Barbel/Specialist, with Full Duplon Handles, Fuji Rings &amp; Reel Seat.</b></p> <p><b>JUST 1 Left!</b></p> <p><b>ONLY £175</b></p>	<p><b>3 Original Century Armalite MKI's, 12ft 3lb Test Curve, 'BM Built' with Full Cork Handles, Fuji Rings &amp; Reel Seats.</b></p> <p><b>Ex Stock ONLY 3 Left!</b></p> <p><b>£230 each or £650 for 3.</b></p>
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## Welcome to the Junior Informer pages!

There is so much to learn when out on the banks fishing and to be honest an angler never stops learning. Even on days when the fishing is slow, there is always something to be learned from even the coldest sessions when a fish never comes to the landing net!

Fish care is probably one of the most important parts of fishing so here is an article that hopefully will enable you to appreciate and return your prize fish in excellent condition ready to fight another day!

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

**During these cold, short and dark days of winter we are all looking forward to Spring, but there are jobs to be done!**

Let's start with your equipment. Whether it is coarse or fly, we need to keep it in tip top condition:

- Check your rod guides for wear. If they have become grooved, replace or have it replaced by someone who knows how.
- Reels need to be cleaned under a lukewarm tap. Take the spools off and clean in and around the cages using an old toothbrush. This will enable you to get to those hard to reach places. Clean the old grease out of the gearing and replace with a tiny smear of petroleum jelly. If it is needed, replace old nylon but please dispose of it safely. Cut the nylon into small pieces for disposal.
- Fly lines can damage very easily. Check for cracking along the length. There are restorers that will bring your line back to some sort of performance but if it is too badly cracked I would replace. Damaged lines will not perform or cast properly and will frustrate your day on the water.
- Check your connections to your fly lines. Knots can weaken. This also applies to nylon and knots used with fixed spool reels.
- Clean out your tackle box or bag, there may be debris in the bottom and in the pockets - old line, bits of grass, mud etc. My motto is be prepared and ready!

Now on to the subject of rubbish! At times, I find all manner of rubbish at venues. This rubbish can be found anywhere people coarse, fly or sea fish and it is disheartening. I always endeavour to clear up any rubbish I find, especially line and discarded hooks. Both can be deadly for animals and if you are a dog walker



I don't need to tell you more. Most anglers do not litter and it is only a very small minority who do not seem to care, but don't be one of them. It is no hardship to take it away and dispose of your rubbish safely.

Let us put out the message to onlookers and non-anglers that we care for the environment, after all we are the ambassadors for our sport. Gripe over!

Coarse fishing should still be good this month, if the weather allows. Rivers are still the go-to places, if they are not running too high or coloured. Try fishing close to the



margins, you might be surprised and find fish there to take the float under or rattle the quiver tip.

Sea fishing will be a little slow in February, but you may find flounder, dabs, pouts and, if you're very lucky, codling to catch.

Fly fishing will still be quite good but check the weather and with the fishery to make sure that it is open. It may be frozen over or the weather too severe for them to open.

If all is good, make sure you layer up in all that warm clothing I have talked about in past issues. All the usual patterns can work - black and green or orange etc - but I suggest using a fast intermediate or sinking fly line to get down deep for the trout. Most importantly, retrieve slowly.

That's all for February. Let's look forward to March and the awakening of Spring! Keep warm, be safe but most of all have fun.



is proudly sponsored by



Pallatrax have kindly offered to support our region's Junior anglers by offering two fantastic Day Session Carp Packs to two lucky entrants picked from the Junior Catch Photos sent to the Freshwater Informer each month!

**Each 'Ready, Steady, Fish' pack contains:**

400g of shelf life Squabs • 3 x medium swivel Stonze weights of 2 – 2.5 ozs • 3 x Gripz hair rigs (For 14 mm baits use size 8 Gripz, 18 mm baits use size 6 Gripz) • 500g of Carp Crush groundbait/method mix • Anti – tangle foam • Boilie stops • Packet of Gammarus shrimp • Packet of 15 x 10 mm pop ups

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!



**WINNERS**  
well done!

The winners of the JUNIOR PHOTO ALBUM THIS MONTH ARE



**Aimee Parks**



**Bailey Sands**



ARCHIE MASON



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FREDDIE PRITCHETT READING THE INFORMER!



HUGHIE STEWART-HALL AT CHEQUERTREE



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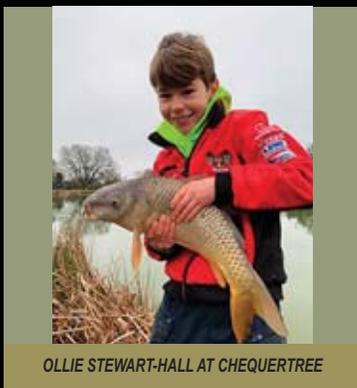


LEON MASON



MATTHEW MUMMERY & MUM KAYLEY

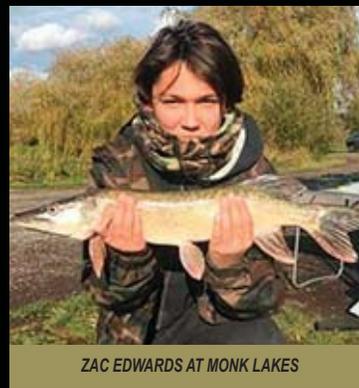
# JUNIOR INFORMER PHOTO ALBUM



OLLIE STEWART-HALL AT CHEQUERTREE



XAVIA-PARIS GIBBS AT GIBBS LAKES PADDOCK WOOD



ZAC EDWARDS AT MONK LAKES

## CARE FOR YOUR CATCH!



Fish care is the most important part of our day's fishing. We all go to a lot of time and effort to catch our fish, but, what about the moment our fish is netted and on the bank? It is at this point that our prized capture is at its most vulnerable and we all have a duty to protect the fish and to create as little stress as possible to ensure a safe release back in to the water.

### Get organized

At the start of a session, we need to make sure that we are organized and all the equipment we need to care for the fish is to hand. This includes: forceps, antiseptic, scales, camera, mats, slings along with a bucket of water to keep the carp and mat wet while the fish is out of the water.

### Secure the Fish

As soon as we've caught a fish, we need to safely secure them. This can be done with a bank stick. Push the bank stick through the spreader block of the net, then the carp can't charge off and drag the net away into the lake. Don't put the net too close to the bank though as it means the carp is very tight to the bank and if it moves around while in the net, it could bump into the side of the bank and damage its scales, or even worse, wound itself.

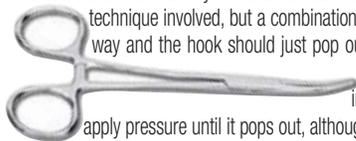
### Scales ready and moving the fish safely

Next, we need to wet the weighing/retainer sling and make sure it is properly soaked and the mat is also wet as well. Put the sling onto the scales, zero the scales with the wet weighing sling hanging from them, but before we get the carp out the water with a sling at the ready. We can break down the net, by removing the net arms from the spreader block and then slide the carp, while still in the net into the sling. It is much safer for the carp using this method as having the net inside of the sling is a safer way to transport the fish, it is also very important to check the carps' fins are flat to the body of the fish before we put any load on the sling. Once we're happy, we can gently lift the carp out of the water, letting as much of the water drain off before we actually transfer it onto the mat.



### Removing the hook

Always move the mat as close to where you're out of the water, you only want to move it a few feet. There's absolutely no excuse to be carrying a fish 20 metres across the swim. As soon as the carp is safely on the mat, we can unfold the net. The first thing we need to do is to get the hook out of the fish's mouth. Most of the time you should be able to do this with your fingers and thumb. There is a bit of technique involved, but a combination of thumb and index finger applying pressure in the right way and the hook should just pop out nice and easy. With barbed point hooks, you need to remember the hook has got to come out the way it went in, so you need to basically roll it towards the point and apply pressure until it pops out, although you may need forceps to get a good grip on the hook.



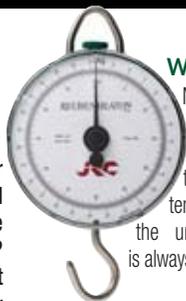
### Move the net away

Once the hook is out, put the rig somewhere safe to make sure it isn't trodden on, or you don't kneel down on to it. Now we're ready to take the carp out of the net. Carefully lift the carp out of the net, then slide the net to one side and lower it beside the net onto the bottom of the unhooking mat. Move the net out of the way, but remember to set the net back up again once your current fish is returned, in case you catch another!



### Bucket of water to cool and wet the fish

In hot weather it's paramount that you keep the fish as cool as possible and work quickly, so if necessary pour lake water onto the mat and carp from the bucket to keep it wet and cool. Remember that unhooking mats can get very hot if left out in the sunshine so keep it shaded if possible.



### Weighing the fish

Now, the exciting bit! We are ready to find out the weight of the fish. It's better to weigh the fish before taking photos because it gives them time to settle when they are in the sling. Try and zero the weigh scales with the wet sling before you attempt to move the carp. Hopefully your fishing buddy will get the scales ready while you tend to the fish. Once you have recorded the weight, transfer the fish back onto the unhooking mat or cradle to take the photos, making sure the fish is always kept close to the ground whenever it is being moved.

### If the fish moves

Have a wet towel nearby as covering up the carps eyes is the best way to calm it down should it start to flip on the mat. Very often the fish will tense up before it starts to flip, so keep an eye on it at all times. If it starts to flip, hold it firmly down on the mat, it will stop after a short while. Just make sure it can't flip off the mat as that is when most damage could be caused to the fish. If the fish starts to flip while you have it lifted, tilt it back towards you and let it rest on your arms until it has stopped, try not to cover it with your body because your clothes will remove the mucus on the fish's body, but also try your hardest not to drop the fish as you will cause damage to the fish.

### Lifting The Fish

Put your hand under the fish and put your fingers either side of the fin facing up. You aren't going to hold it by the fin, this is just to know that your hand is in the right place. The other hand needs to slide under the fish's tail where its anal fin is located. Your index and middle fingers go either side of the anal fin and your thumb around its tail, just like if you were holding someone's wrist. You would then use the grip on the fish's tail to control the fish and turn it upright for the photo. When lifting the fish squat or preferably kneel (if you are able to!). If you do anything other than kneel, you may possibly lose balance and this is why it is a good idea to get an unhooking mat with a built-in section you can kneel on. Lift the fish up, smile for a photo or two and then gently put the fish back down onto the weighing sling which is on the mat.

### How to use carp care kit

A very important part that is often overlooked is using the different fluids for the body and the mouth. We may well have seen the damage to a carp's mouth, either from a hard fight with us or from previous poor handling. Unfortunately, it's going to happen from time to time. The fish may have rubbed itself against rocks, trees and anything else that may be in the lake when you are fighting with it. A scale might get damaged or the fish could get cut when trying to get away. This could happen from the time the fish tears off to the time you get it on the mat. There are many good quality products available from the tackle shops that provide you with an excellent healthcare kit which helps seal the wounds and stop infections. Do take time to read the instructions on the carp care products. Depending on where the damage is, all you have to do is squeeze a few drops onto a Q-Tip and massage the Q-tip into the area that is damaged and the surrounding areas close to the wound.



### Returning the fish to the water

To return the fish, whilst in the sling, make sure the fins are back, flat against the fish's body and lift the sling to transport the fish back to the water. Ensure the sling is zipped up! Lower the fish back into the water, but give the fish time to recover. Unzip and open the weigh sling and lower the front of it away from the fish's face and make sure the fish is facing the way you want it to swim away, usually to the middle of the lake! The fish will probably be laying flat at this point, so while keeping hold of its tail, take the sling away, hold the fish upright and give it time to recover. At this point, it will either swim away by itself, or you may need to give it longer to recover. Keep it upright and holding the tail gently move the fish backwards and forwards allowing water to pass through the gills and oxygenate the blood. Recovery may take a minute or two so be patient, it will eventually swim away.

### Prepare for the next one!

You're not finished yet as you need to prepare your unhooking equipment ready for the next catch. Top up your bucket with lake water, put your net back together and, rinse off the unhooking mat and place in the shade. It is always worth keeping your gear in the same place, especially when night fishing making it a well organised procedure when the next fish comes calling!



*This time of year, when there is little Fishing for Schools activity, allows us all to reflect, ponder and peer into the future.*

The past six months have probably defined the success of the project more than any other. With a growing schools list, increasing delivery at all levels – be that in areas of adult mental health National Curriculum involvement and the all-important increasing amount of young angling participation – we have had to evolve.

So the F4S head office team set about deciding how Fishing for Schools would deliver into the future. We needed to create a platform that was sustainable and solid, in order to embrace the needs of young people into the future. This has now been done.

We asked schools to apply for places within the Fishing for Schools initiative via a website application process, we could allocate our resource in the best possible way. Schools were asked to outline how they would embrace Fishing for Schools within their educational programme, how the initiative might be used to assist their students and how they would merge mainstream education into what we offered. We also asked them to give us at TCAF an idea of the legacy that we might leave and for those who had worked with us before, what we had achieved so far.

We thought we would get a handful of applicants; we were inundated.

Eleven or more years ago when Fishing for Schools began, with the just the one school in Tewkesbury, we had no idea of the reach or importance of this little initiative.

However, it is tough writing letters having to turn schools down – purely out of lack of funding. This year's F4S scheme in Kent will see some new



schools and a large number of old friends. However we cannot offer our service for free to all the schools we have been involved with in the past.

Which brings me to an issue that looms large in the minds of any charity – fundraising. We have a some very generous donors and fundraisers willing to give their time and efforts to improving our cashflow, but we can only provide our service to more schools if we have more funds.

The extremely dedicated Kent team is coming up with ways to support themselves and schools are always very welcome to self-fund our courses.

If you would like to help us provide Fishing for Schools courses to more children and adults with mental health issues in 2019 and beyond, please contact us at [info@ca-foundation.org](mailto:info@ca-foundation.org) or call 0207 8409270



## WELL DONE MACKENZIE!



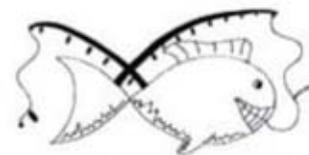
*Phil Cowley-Jones sent me this great report following a pike fishing session at Monk Lakes with his stepson Mackenzie*

*"I took my stepson Mackenzie Swan pike fishing the other day, as I had promised he would catch a pike this year. He managed to get three, the best was just over 7lb.*

*The venue was Monk Lakes and the photo shows Mackenzie with the best of the day at 7lbs 2ozs."*

*Thank you again to our Junior Informer Sponsors*

**Fishing for Schools**



# Trout Informer



## Chalk Springs Arundel, West Sussex

It's been another mixed bag of weather over the last few weeks – anything from lovely sun to howling gales or a sharp frost and torrential rain. The fishing hasn't been really affected by this mixture of weather and it continues to be excellent with the catch rate remaining around the 90% mark most weeks. The water remains crystal clear, as it does for most of the year, as it generally doesn't 'colour up' after heavy rain. If the weather does get a bit nasty, you can always go and hide in the lodge and make yourself a cup of tea or coffee to keep you warm!

The usual goldhead damsels, hare's ears, daddy longlegs and a variety of stalking bugs have been the most effective patterns, with a lot of fish still coming out on dries too.

Not many Blues caught this month but rainbows and browns up to just over 11lb were the best caught and we will be continuing to stock all three species throughout the rest of the winter months.

Latest news - There will be a slight price increase for 2019. The current rates have been the same for the best part of the last 10 years, so a small increase is inevitable. Fish food and fish costs have almost doubled during this period, so this rise is 'long overdue'. See our 'prices and booking' page for details. Please note that the 3-fish ticket is now a Day ticket, rather than a 'long half day'.

Although the fishery is generally a little quieter during the winter months, pre-booking is still advised, especially for weekends. See our website for booking details and prices, as well as our weekly catch page.

Finally, contrary to rumours doing the rounds, the fishery is NOT closing and we are looking forward to another busy year.

*Tight Lines, Darren and Ally*

## Brick Farm Lakes Herstmonceux, East Sussex

Okay folks... Here we are, well and truly into the New Year now. I hear tell from the trusty weather girls that we have a spot of "interesting" weather coming our way. About time too is all I can say! I recently was caught up in the "interesting" weather in Austria, the heaviest snowfall some said in 100 years and although we took two days to reach our resort, having experienced aborted landings, diversions to Germany, emergency hotels and gridlocked roads that our coach driver by some kind of miracle got us safely through, it was just lovely to get away from the grey, muddy, germ ridden England for a while. There were more poor people ill this Christmas and New Year than I ever remember, including Hubby, and I feel very sorry for you all. We need a dose of minus temperatures to kill off all these nasty bugs and clear the air for a while.

As to the fishing, well the trout fight the hardest in the cold water and with the lack of natural foods (other than fry, orange is a must in your fly box) in the lakes they are hungry and looking to take the flies with gusto! They are hitting the flies hard and patrolling the water at all depths; sometimes just under the surface and sometimes down on the bottom. They have been shoaling up a bit lately, mainly in the deeper water, but not exclusively. We anglers need to move around, test the depths by starting at the surface and counting down before retrieving, and change our tactics as and when the need arises. It is very easy to get stuck in a rut with our habits (I'm of course including me in this case), when the winter months definitely effect the fish's habits as well.

We do of course have quiet days here at Brick Farm Lakes at this time of year but this does at least give the trout and the water a bit of a break from heavy fishing. The trout, no doubt, gain a little confidence and move around their territories more readily when the activity of constant casting eases for a while. This may explain why the larger fish are more likely to be fooled onto a hook when there is a bit of ice around or a sprinkle of snow on the grass. We had a marvellous brown caught yesterday, see the photo! We will, of course continue to stock most weeks throughout the winter and have the welcoming Lodge for our anglers to warm up in for a while and enjoy a cuppa or an egg and bacon roll (up to 12pm).

If you are a group of angling buddies or fishing club then we can offer you a bespoke menu for a wonderful day out. Please call Annie at the Lodge for ideas and info.

Tight lines now for the month of February and at least it is a short month for all you looking forward to the spring. I saw some daffs in bud yesterday so not too long to wait now.

*Annie and Caroline*



Brian Field



A first fish to be proud of!



Frank with his tagged fish winnings £100



Brian Kentish



James Green



Happy Tagged Fish winner of £100



John Micklam with a great brown!



Colin



Paul H

## Tenterden Trout Waters Tenterden, Kent

Fishing has been good this January with the right climate and we hope this will follow through to February. Anglers have caught some quality Rainbows ranging between 3-7lbs in weight and the Trout have put up a good fight for them.

Popular patterns have been Montana, Bloodworm, Buzzers & Cats Whisker. Intermediate lines are working well. We have had some great days for Winter fishing – the Trout respond well to the cold and it has been a dry January. Our Anglers have enjoyed using our new Lodge facilities for complimentary tea/coffee and to warm up and have a good catch up together.

We have stocked the Lakes with larger fish which is proving to work well for our Anglers – the excitement of not knowing what you are going to strike is all part of the thrill of fishing. We have put some more Browns and Blues into Lake 3 and Boris our trophy Brown broke yet another Angler in January. That's fishing!

We continue to encourage the young into the sport and we hope you enjoy our photo of Sonny and his Dad. He was so excited to have netted this Rainbow for him. They had a lovely few hours together.

We were delighted that Sam Rolls caught a superb 7lbs Rainbow caught on a Goldhead Montana on his first visit to Tenterden and Alan Playford had good sport with his 4lbs 8oz Rainbow which he has submitted to the Trout Masters.

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](http://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](mailto:gaynor@coombe-farm.com) to make your purchase.

*Tight Lines for 2019 and we hope to see you soon. Gaynor*



Steve & Sonny aged 3½ who netted his Dad's 2lb Rainbow. Well done Sonny!

### TENTERDEN TROUT WATERS

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Contact (01580) 763201  
[www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk](http://www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk)



Sam Rolls first fish at Tenterden caught on a Goldhead Montana at 7lb



Alan Playford 4lb 8oz Rainbow caught on Montana

## CHALK SPRINGS

01903 883742 [www.chalksprings.com](http://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.

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Come and catch one of our Browns!

Oliver Wilks Ings

A warm welcome awaits you—we will look after you!

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

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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](mailto:secretary@crawleyflyfishers.org.uk)

Web Site [www.crawleyflyfishers.org.uk](http://www.crawleyflyfishers.org.uk)

Phone: 07528 605370

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/>



## Lure Fishing

### A change is as good as a rest!

With conditions at Bewl deteriorating with the influx of new water being pumped in, this added colour always makes lure fishing less effective, in my experience. I decided it would be a good time to take a break, let's face it my results when conditions had been perfect had hardly set the pike world on fire, so I'd give the water a chance to settle before returning for some more punishment!

#### What to do?

I considered my options, Rutland, Grafham, Farmoor? I was feeling lazy and uninspired, a change was needed. With plenty of time off over the Christmas period I opted to dig out my fly tackle and visit some local small waters I'd neglected recently.

#### Stowting Trout Lake

This small clear water is a bit "under the radar" a far as mainstream fly fishing goes. Situated between Ashford and Folkestone, Stowting is hidden down a series of country lanes in the chalk hills overlooking the Kent countryside. Access is easy as the fishery lies only a few miles off the M20 motorway.



Stowting Trout Lake

At about two acres it's a bit small for my liking but it does offer fantastic visibility. You normally have to travel west to Hampshire to get this water quality. The chalk stream fed lake has a healthy amount of weed which supports a mixture of fly life. I was told by the two anglers on my first visit that hatches of Midges and Sedges provide good surface action, especially in the Spring and on Summer's evenings.

On my two visits, yes it was that good, I experienced superb sport catching several hard fighting rainbows and a bonus brown trout. All my fish were caught in the shallow end which is around 3-4 feet deep with a fair amount of weed close to the bottom. I had to concoct a presentation that would allow me to fish close to the bottom without snagging the greenery. The normal combination of floating line, long leader with a weighted fly was not working for me. I had to retrieve too fast to prevent catching weed. Unweighted flies were not attracting any interest either, I felt I needed to trigger a response by "twiddling" my fly, using a fast "figure eight" retrieve and unweighted flies were lifting too high in the water.

#### Predator Tip

A change of fly line was required but what should I choose? Intermediate or Sink Tip, as I was threading my Sink Tip line through the rod rings the angler closest to me hooked a fish on a dry fly! Oh dear was my tactic doomed to fail before I'd even started? Regardless, I continued to tackle up; my fly was going to have some buoyancy in it so it would hover just above the weed.

The sinking tip of my Lee Wulff line was going to provide the depth; a fast "figure eight" would draw my fly down close to the weed, occasional pauses saw the fly slowly rise up before I commenced the retrieve. The takes all came just after a slight pause, having found a successful method I caught my limit of four fish, "catch and release", too quickly. It had taken me an hour and a half to work out how to catch my first fish and less than another hour to catch the rest!



A fin perfect Stowting Rainbow

Fired up by my previous visit, I had to return a few days later. I tried fishing the dam end where the water was deeper and presented weighted bugs to fish I could see, but all refused my offerings. I reluctantly headed towards the shallow end above the island; the other two anglers were fishing here too but on the opposite bank. I didn't want to encroach on their fishing so I retreated to the dam end.

I'd tried hard to find another way of catching but by mid-day I'd failed, so reluctantly I had to go back to my winning combination of sink tip line and FAB blob fly. Would it work a second time? Casting towards the island from the dam it didn't work, nor did fishing the channel down my side of the island, eventually I had to go to the shallow end. I'd noticed both the other anglers had bagged fish in this general area. I didn't take long before I caught three fish, not wanting to finish too early I experimented with dry flies but could not raise any fish. So back to what was working and a couple of casts later it's "fish on" and my day is over.

Stowting is a small water which can cater for up to ten anglers but I'd prefer not to fish there with more than half a dozen. It's ideal for a few friends to get together and have a "boys' day" out or maybe a family and friends. Contact details as follows, Water Farm Stowting, Ashford TN25 6BA 01303-862401. The owner Carol asks you to book in advance to prevent overcrowding.

#### Where next?

Buoyed up by my success at Stowting I was up for a challenge so I decided to visit another old haunt. Mark Bryant was going to join me so we needed a venue that "A" allowed "catch and release" as neither of us wanted to kill fish, "B" where we would stand a chance of catching and "C" was within easy reach for both of us.

#### Hazel Copse

I selected Hazel Copse near Horsham in West Sussex RH12 3AF contact 01403-822878; I'd fished here a few times but not recently. The owner Wilf has two well stocked lakes that have always been kind to me. I was keen to see if my "sink tip" and FAB fly technique would work here too? As Wilf allows droppers, I attached a small black Diawl Bach on one 5ft up from my point fly which was a Biscuit FAB. We both elected to fish Lake Two; the water was reasonably clear with 3-4ft visibility. After a few casts on this still, cold and damp morning I was already starting to doubt my presentation. Would the fish be active enough to chase? I changed my point fly to a weighted "hot head" Damsel nymph, this would fish deeper and put some angle in my leader, which meant my two flies would now be searching two different depths at the same time, sneaky.

A short while later and I've got itchy feet, I was going to move! It's a mistake to stay too



Andy's sink tip method works again

Andy's shop The Friendly Fisherman in Tunbridge Wells TN11 2PS stocks a huge variety of freshwater tackle, especially for Carp.  
Plus a vast selection of the lure fishing and fly fishing gear.  
[www.thefriendlyfisherman.co.uk](http://www.thefriendlyfisherman.co.uk)

long in one casting position at this time of year, unless you know there are fish in front of you. With the cold water, fish slow right down and spend most of their time holed up in tight areas. You cannot rely on them coming to you, so you have to go and find them. Don't make the mistake of moving too far each time as you could easily bypass their holding spot. I always like to cast along the bank at this time of year as this sees my fly in the most productive water throughout the cast. I was going to move, I cast my flies out into the lake so I could reel my line back onto the reel while under tension when suddenly everything locks up "fish on", I'd fluked a fish! Now I'm confused, what retrieve should I be using, "slow and low" or "fast and shallow"?

Eventually after fishing several different casting spots around the lake I found my original set up of sink tip and FAB fly was THE method after all, but only if I used a short series of slow strips rather than my normal figure eight retrieve, how strange. Sometimes I could almost sense a fish before I got a take. By watching the line from my rod tip to the water's surface I would watch it lift as I retrieved and fall back each time I paused, sometimes it would hold up a little too long indicating a fish was mouthing the fly, if I struck then I missed the fish! What I found I had to do when this happened was to retrieve very fast to take any slack out of the line before setting the hook. Once I'd worked this out I started to catch regularly. After a short lunch break we continued fishing Lake Two, I was now casting into previously unfished areas as the fish had definitely gone off. I winkled out a couple more but it was painfully slow by now. Time to try Lake One!

For some reason I'd never fancied lake one? So I wasn't expecting it to be any better, wrong! My first four casts produced three fish and a missed take, yes really. Mark had now joined me but his presentation had changed so many times during the day that I wanted to check his leader length and fly positions as he wasn't getting any action. A quick re tackle and I notice his rod take on a satisfying bend as a trout leapt clear of the water. Suddenly we couldn't stop catching! The light was fading but the fish were biting and we had to keep fishing, then suddenly it stopped.



A clean Hazel Copse Rainbow

As we retreated to the car park we chattered about what a great fun day we'd had and when should we do it again? Not long methinks!

*Til' next time, tight lines. Andy Lush*

### 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.

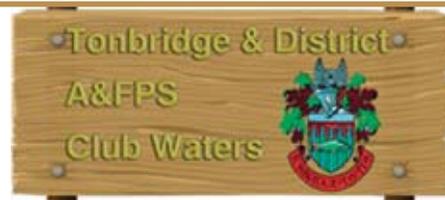
#### Carp & Pike

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



# Angling Societies



### 14 miles of River and 7 Lakes containing:

Carp to 48lb 10oz, Tench to 12lb 8oz, Bream to 16lb+, Barbel to 15lb 2oz, Chub to 5lb+, Perch to 3lb 6oz, Pike to 31lb 6oz, Crucians to 4lb 6oz and Grass Carp to 29lb 6oz. Also large Roach and Rudd to 3lbs and large eels.

#### 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](http://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](mailto:chris@lintonangling.co.uk)

[www.lintonangling.co.uk](http://www.lintonangling.co.uk)



H.B.D.  
F.A.A.

### 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.

For further information please contact:

**Chris Pagan 07429 655237 Steve Potter 07935 268174**

Postal enquiries: S Corke, 153 Athelstan Road, Hastings TN35 5JF

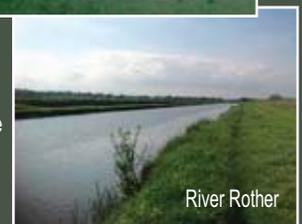
[hastingsandbexhillangling.co.uk](http://hastingsandbexhillangling.co.uk)



Normanhurst Lake



Wishing Tree Reservoir



River Rother

# AFFORDABLE FLY FISHING IN MID SUSSEX AT CINDER HILL FLY FISHING

by Barry Reed (editor)



Back in the warm late summer sun in September, I was invited to Cinder Hill Fly Fishing in mid-Sussex for a preview of their 2 sets of 3 lakes set just on the edge of the Ashdown Forest and to see how this amazing private fishery operates, and to meet both members and committee. The first thing that immediately grabs your attention is the pure natural beauty of these totally unspoilt and immaculately kept lakes along with the friendly atmosphere created by the team who run the fishery.

Cinder Hill operates as a private syndicate and manages every aspect of the stocking, maintenance and membership and has recently secured a new lease for the next 5 years. The syndicate has been at the location since 1989 and is located near Horsted Keynes with about 2 miles between the 2 sites.



The lakes are stocked approximately every 2 weeks throughout the season although this can reduce in the hotter summer months as we experienced in 2018. The standard of the fish is of the highest quality coming from Duncton Mill near Petworth, and both rainbows and browns are stocked to 4-5lb with the average around 1 1/2 - 2lb. The fish are fully tailed healthy hard fighting fish and can be caught using all usual fly fishing methods including dry fly when conditions are right. The two sites are both very different with the main 3 lakes at Cinder Hill being larger than the 3 lakes at Piplye, but both offer a good depth of water up to 12 feet and remain very clear for most of the season. The lakes are spring fed from the Ashdown Forest which helped keep them in good condition throughout the hot summer of 2018.

What struck me about this 'best kept secret' was the friendly and welcoming atmosphere and Secretary Mark Orchin shared his knowledge of both trout and coarse fishing (many members do both, although the Cinder Hill lakes are fly only) throughout my visit and discussed the possibility of extending the offer of membership for the 2019 season and beyond to new members. The cost is surprisingly low at £280.00 per annum which includes



up to 25 visits equating to a little over £11.00 per visit if you make all your visits. There is a 3 fish limit for each trip plus restricted catch & release on the top lake at each venue for the first few months of the season. The Cinder Hill season is April 1st to October 31st and Piplye 1st March to 30th November. There is adequate car parking at both venues and a small hut for signing in and recording catches. The fishery also fully represent their sport by running the fly fishing stall and casting demonstrations at the South of England Show, Game Fair and the schools Connect with the Countryside event at Ardingly Show Ground, as well as holding an annual charity day for MacMillan Cancer Nurses. Courses are offered to both adults and juniors through the season when available, and following the Ardingly Show dates a limited number of taster days can be arranged for prospective new members. For further information please contact Robert Nathan 01892 770903 r.nathan@btinternet.com www.cinder-hill-trout.uk



## Cinder Hill Fly Fishing



One of Mid-Sussex's best kept secrets, Cinder Hill lakes offer some of the regions most natural, unspoilt and affordable trout fishing. Membership is now available for the 2019 season.

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



Find us on



# 21st MARCH

## Fishing Season Open Day at BEWL WATER

### Fishing season 2019 kicks off on 21st March!

Land your first fish of the new season down at Bewl Water. Whether it's trout, pike or perch. Bewl is a beautiful spot for angling from the bank or from a boat.

What's more, we'll be selling delicious bacon sandwiches on the opening day to give you that extra energy boost to hook that first catch!

**BOOK YOUR PERMIT TODAY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT  
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*Photo Credit: Will Vockins*



[www.bewlwater.co.uk](http://www.bewlwater.co.uk)

01892 890000

[info@bewlwater.co.uk](mailto:info@bewlwater.co.uk)

Bewl Water, Bewlbridge Lane, Lamberhurst, Kent, TN3 8JH



# Medway and Kent Sea Fishing Group



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

The past few weeks have been challenging. The sea temperatures have dropped to a more seasonal level, but, the cod are still proving elusive. There have been one or two small ones caught, but, alas this looks like another 'cod free' winter in the South East. Maybe we will see a Spring run or maybe we won't??? On the plus side, there have been good numbers of thornbacks caught, especially from the Sheppey beaches. Many anglers having multiple catches per session with fish up to double figures. The whiting have thinned out with the bigger specimens moving out beyond the range of shore anglers. However, boat anglers are picking up some nice sized fish. February, depending on the weather, should see the first of the plaice arriving.

## THAMES report

Although the numbers of whiting have thinned out over the past few weeks, there are still fish to be caught. Thamesmead has produced whiting and flounders and the flatfish are showing in better numbers along at Greenhithe and Erith.



One or two small bass still present.

## MEDWAY report

Better number of flounders showing in the river. Numbers of whiting have decreased and the average size is smaller than last month. Ragworm, maddies and lugworm being the best bait presented on small hooks.



Medway Tackle Supplies 01634 570740, Rod & Line, Chatham 01634 880770 and Anglers Den, Gillingham 01634 852180 can supply all your bait and tackle requirements.



## SHEPPEY report courtesy of Sheppey Angling

The dabs and flounders have become more numerous and falling mostly to worm baits and smaller hook sizes. A bonus for local anglers has been the early arrival of the thornback rays. Some good catches have been made and the fish are falling to fish baits. The smaller night tides have shown to be the best time to be on the beach to bag a ray! Fish are being caught pretty much all round the island. Sheppey Angling can provide all your top quality fresh and frozen baits and tackle. Call Mick on 01795 661089.



## THANET report courtesy of Fishermens Corner

Mixed bags of fish at Ramsgate!! With whiting numbers thinning, we are seeing dabs, pouting, flounders and scorpion fish caught off the East pier, along with a few dogfish at night. The low water marks also showing a similar mix of fish. Ramsgate's East pier, Eastern and western esplanades are easily accessible for disabled and junior anglers, with close parking. Blow lug, fresh/frozen blacks are working well with anglers using cocktails with fish baits.



Fisherman's Corner Ramsgate has a great selection of baits and tackle and is only a short walk from the pier. 01843 582174

## DEAL Report courtesy of Dave Chamberlain

Construction and replacement of the grating on the lower deck of Deal Pier has been in progress for the last two months. After a year's closure, it is hoped that the north side of this popular angling venue will be opened this month and the rest in the near future. Thornback rays will be the target fish from the pier and beaches at Sandwich Bay. Best baits for ray are herring, sprats, sandeel and squid. The inshore sea temperature has dropped drastically and the whiting shoals have scattered - leaving the smaller fish being a nuisance. However, the dogfish are ever present, along with dabs and rockling. Sprats are being caught by the local commercial fishing boats and it is worth purchasing some for cheap bait when they are available.



Channel Angling at the pier entrance can supply all your tackle and bait. Call Fred on 01304 373104.

## DOVER report courtesy of Channel Angling Dover

Some nice thornback rays coming from the pier along with dogfish, dabs, whiting and the odd small codling. Some of the rays have been approaching double figures and all falling to fish baits. The best dab fishing is on the first corner of the pier. If conditions remain settled and the water clear, we may well see a few plaice arriving over the next few weeks.



Shakespeare beach has produced a few dogfish, whiting and the odd small bass.

Channel Angling can supply all your fresh and frozen bait and carries a great range of tackle including Zplex rods! Call 01304 203742.



## HYTHE report

Still whiting and dogfish being caught, although the bigger fish seemed to have moved offshore. The dabs and flounders are being caught and there has been one or two small codling and bass. Hopefully, if conditions remain settled, the rays and plaice should begin to make an appearance very soon.

Local tackle shops for all your tackle and bait needs are Dens Tackle 01303 267053 and Best Buddies 01303 253881.



**HASTINGS** courtesy of Hastings Angling Centre  
HASTINGS REPORT

The festive period and the first half of January has been characterised by persistent wind off the land with the odd westerly blast to make things difficult. Mild and relatively dry. The result is doldrums for beach fishing. Frequently the sea has cleared right out and fishing has been very hard. We really need a good south westerly gale to give it a good stir up. Lug worm digging in these calm conditions has been as bad as it gets. A few flounders dabs and whiting being the main species caught. The odd good sole, bass and dogfish on the rougher days.

The boats have managed quite few trips out on the days when the offshore wind wasn't too bad further out. Some decent pollack caught best heard of is a 14lb one for Mark Fairhurst out of the East Hastings club. Rays and gurnard still about. No sign of any cod, it looks like they are not coming this year again.

Prospects for February. A shore the plaice are spawning now and will move inshore to feed, but they will be very thin and not really worth keeping. They like it calm and clear. Dabs and flounders will become more prominent as the whiting numbers thin out.

In the boats pollack will be the prime target with the big fish gathering on the deep wrecks prior to spawning in March. There are plenty of sprats and herring about now so they should be in top condition and feeding hard.



Mark Fairhurst - pollack



Sam - flounder

**Hastings Angling Centre  
Open Beach Match**

**Sam cleans up!**

Fished on Saturday 12/1/19 in tricky conditions with a stiff westerly springing up after several calm days meant that some species were put off and others hadn't had long enough to arrive in the new conditions. If it wasn't for the whiting showing for the last hour or so into darkness there would have been many more blanks

Clear winner of the Hastings Angling Centre Open £300 first prize was veteran Sam Sampson with 2lb 7oz. Not only did he win, he cleaned up with a full house! Heaviest bag, heaviest round (eel 11oz), heaviest flat (good flounder of 1lb 12oz), Veteran, top club angler and won the pairs with Ben Arnold! Another notable fish was a nice sole of 1lb 5oz for Mick Snelling.



Colin P



Mick Sole



Tim Sole

Many thanks to Colin and Ralph Crosby and Mark Hinxman for all the efforts in making the event happen so well and to Hastings & St Leonards SAA for the venue.



Pairs



Sam Sampson - Winner

**A Section**

- 1 - Darren Bond 2lb 3oz
- 2 - Mick Snelling 2lb 2.8oz
- 3 - Mark Pinder 2lb 2.7oz

**B Section**

- 1 - Colin Pickard 1lb 11oz
- 2 - Tim Relf 1lb 9.4oz
- 3 - Julian French 1lb 9.2oz

**C Section**

- 1 - Eddie Ryder 1lb 3oz
- 2 - Philip A Lee 11oz
- 3 - Brett Green 7oz

**Hastings & St Leonards Angling Association - Christmas Charity match for the Black Cat Trophy**

This year's Black Cat Charity match was held on Boxing Day morning. 14 anglers fished for a couple of hours. Fishing was tough as conditions were calm and the water was clear. The winner was Colin Pickard.

Over £200 was raised for a local charities, a big thanks to all that attended.

- 1 - Colin Pickard. 11lb 3ozs
- 2 - Colin Crosby. 15ozs
- 3 - Kerry Saint. 13ozs



Colin P



Nick May



Steve Martin

**EASTBOURNE NOMADS ANGLING CLUB - Slater Cup 13/1/19**

Fish were hard to find and a good turnout saw 30 anglers take part.

Heaviest round fish – G. Sargeant - whiting 8.5ozs

Heaviest flat fish – M. Moule - flounder 1lb 4ozs Superpool – M. Moule



Michael Moule - 1lb 4ozs flounder



Scarlett Aghilli

- 1st W. Sargeant 2lbs 3.5 ozs
- 2nd P. King 1lb 14ozs
- 3rd M. Moule 1lb 12ozs
- 4th S. Brown 1lb 10.5ozs
- 5th G. Sargeant 1lb 7.5ozs

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**DUNGENESS** Latest catch reports on [www.seagullfishingtackle.com](http://www.seagullfishingtackle.com) Well as we work our way through winter the weather has been up and down confusing the fish and the anglers. I have had reports from bait diggers of crabs 'peeling'...in January? On the commercial fishing boats more rays, not just numbers but species, we have had a small eyed ray reported...interesting times.

## BEACH REPORT

This last month has been a bit slow with the odd good fish coming out, But we have had only a trickle of anglers except for the holiday between Christmas and New Year. The fish are there all you have to do is go.

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

**Ideal Christmas present... I had this in from Colin Hemsworth last night...**

"Fresh off the beach, 7.3lb on fresh lug. Christmas came early! Regards, Colin"

**Well done Colin you deserve it...you do the 'hard yards' so nice to see it pay off.**



*Nick Burton's Memorial Match day...*



no bass showed, but a couple of 'slack liners' were missed!

It was nice to see so many people making the effort in Nicks memory.



The competition was won by Becky Lee Birtwhistle Hodges, second Tim Knight, joint third Steve Field & Michael Wigston.



We raised a £150.00 for the Dungeness RNLI presented to Mark Richardson (Deputy Coxswain), by myself and Steve Harvey who run the match on the day, so a great success. We hope to make this an annual event.

*Galloways on target...*

**This report came in last night from Wayne Beale...**

"Hello again Tony, Today saw me heading for one of my favourite venues in search of probably my favourite species...the humble Flounder.

Galloways was the venue.....a perfect neap tide, fishing the Ebb down to LW. It couldn't have been more perfect....calm sea, sunshine, a very light NW.



Rigs were my favourite size 2 flappers....Bait was 'ancient' frozen Blacks that had been given my special treatment.... blasted in the microwave for 30secs. This bait was proper 'liquorice sticks'....and has been proven time and again for me.

*Casting about 60-80yds....i was there for an hour before my first fish.....a small Flounder that was put straight back...getting a wet foot in the process. 30mins later i reeled in another Flounder....this one quite decent at 29-30cm. Note I haven't mentioned Whiting ...yet.*

*Well i fished right down to LW and an hour into the flood....and you guessed it....the Whiting started biting. But hey...a fish is a fish....and what a lovely day to be out.*

*The beach either way was empty as far as the eye could see.*

*My second trip in 3 days and not plagued by Whiting.....and again my target species caught. Regards, Wayne"*

## BEACH OUTLOOK FOR FEBRUARY

I'm trying to stay positive...the fishing is fine, with the odd good fish this will continue...but I do worry over the lack of anglers...it won't take much bad weather to put them off! The big event this month is the 'Dab World Championship' on February the 10th...you can find details on my site if you scroll down the beach section.

### Best Baits

If the fish are feeding all baits will work...fresh lug has been in short supply, but frozen will work dabs love it.

## BOAT REPORT

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

*What a great Christmas present...*

**I had this report in from Anthony out on Peganina (07989778361) from Rye...Great to be afloat with my boys on Christmas day, Anthony & Robert ideal present...**

*Very hard work and lots of tide today - got up to 2 and half lb of lead but perseverance paid off and we got our Christmas Day congers. Merry Christmas to all! P.s I've got a couple of spaces tomorrow still and on Friday/Saturday as well - might be wrecking at the weekend too. Give me a text on 07989778361 Cheers Ant.*



*You would get a decent fillet off..*

**I had this report in from Anthony out on Peganina (07989778361) from Rye yesterday... No cod but some decent whiting...**

*"Best whiting from Wednesday inshore trip nearly 3lbs"*



*A Busman's Holiday...*

Anthony had his crew cancel today so went afloat with Zalan Pasky and his son Zane from the Varne Boat Club...out on Zalan's boat Sea Dog they had a great day wrecking...some brilliant Pollock fishing the best over 13lb...



## BOAT OUTLOOK FOR FEBRUARY

With the changing weather anything is possible if we do get flat seas the wrecks are full of fish if we can get out there, if we get clear water it could be great. Inshore it can be tough, plenty of rays and bits.

### Best Baits

I think fish baits (Bluey, Mackerel, Herring and squid) give you the best opportunity of catching some decent fish.

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# SAM'S FISHING JOURNAL

courtesy of Sam Cox

## Bass fishing 2018 revealed - PART TWO

2018 had its highs as well as it's lows for me and this particular day, or rather few hours, was one of the highs, although it started quite badly.

I had woken up during the night with bad tooth ache, by 7am I had cancelled work and was waiting for the dentist to open.

I got through to them at about half eight and they managed to squeeze me in for a 12pm appointment.

By 11am I was still in pain and bored silly, there's only so much fishing you can watch on You Tube!

I called my fishing buddy Warren to see if he was working, he wasn't, so we arranged to meet up after my appointment. The dentist told me the bad news, I handed her fifty quid, she handed me some antibiotics and after necking some pain killers I went fishing.

Now I don't give locations out near to the time of fishing them as a mark can be ruined by a few yards of gill nets. But, we are in winter now and although there are still one or two bass here, they are few and far between at this time of year. So it's safe enough to talk about marks now.

I had dabbled at Folkestone Warren over the years and have caught a few fish there. Abbotts Cliff is my favourite part. But, it's a long walk and Warrens tackle box weighs far too much for a mile hike!

Arriving about an hour before high water, we opted for a spot where the apron meets the beach. A stiff SW wind was pushing up a decent surf and conditions looked perfect. Despite this my confidence wasn't high. How wrong was !!

Warren and I both keep a stock of fresh peeler and soft crabs in the Spring as they are fairly easy to collect with a little effort. It was crab and only crab that we took with us that day.

I had told Warren to leave the Zippys at home as we would only be casting forty yards at the most. So we both had a pair of light Uptider rods with Pen 525 multiplier reels. The reels were loaded with 15 pounds breaking stain line and 50bs leaders. This area is made up of chalk ledges and rocky reefs so an abrasion resistant leader is required. End tackle was my usual running ledger with two foot hook lengths and rotten bottom droppers to the weights. I like the dropper to my lead to be longer than my hook length. This allows the bait to be presented well in the tide, it also helps keep the hook away from snags. It can also help keep the weight away from the fish. Dropper lengths can be changed to suit. For example, if I'm fishing with a live bait, say from a pier or deep water rock mark, the bait can be fished five to ten foot from the bottom. This has saved me blanking on more than one trip.

Hook choice was 5/0 Aberdeen. These are strong, forged and sharp but light so as not to impede bait presentation. They are strong enough to handle decent bass and sharp enough to get good penetration on the strike.

We used three to five ounce breakaway style weights as they tend to break out of the rough ground, where as plain leads tend to find every crevice and get snagged.

Using polarised sunglasses to see gaps and channels between the rocks, I found an area to cast my first rod. After baiting up with a nice big lively soft crab, I gently cast into my chosen spot and put the rod onto the tripod.

On this red letter day, as so often happens, I was setting up a second rod when the first rod slammed over almost taking the tripod into the drink. In an ideal world the bass angler should only fish with a single rod and hold it for the duration of the session.

However, most trips are hard going and a lot of anglers use two rods to increase the chances, and to my down fall I'm no exception! Giving up on the second rod, I quickly



re-baited with a lovely big soft crab and gently lobbed it out to the same position. This time I held my rod. By now Warren had finished setting up. He baited up with a nice big fresh peeler crab and cast around fifteen yards to my left.

Then all hell broke loose! I caught four bass, one after the other, not massive fish, the smallest was probably two pounds and the other three between four and six pounds.

Unfortunately, I had left my scales in the van. The bass were photographed and gently released.

At this point Warren was getting quite frustrated, he joked that I must have soaked his crab baits in diesel! The tide turned and the water crept away from the rocks.

We decided to move left onto the beach area. At this point, Warren was still fishless. I lent Warren my polarizing sunglasses so he could see the gaps between the rocks. He baited up with another fine soft crab and made the cast. Now Warren is great at distance casting, he can put a lead out far further than myself, but when it comes to close accurate casts he struggles at times. However, this time his cast was perfect, landing with precision between a group of rocks some thirty yards out.

Within minutes the light uptide rod was bending over as Warren leant into what was obviously a decent bass. The fish swam parallel to the beach then double backed forcing Warren to wind like hell and run backwards to keep up. She then made a few short runs taking line from the reel before I grabbed it from the surf.

As I said, we had left our scales in the van, and not wanting to stress the bass we took a few photos and gently released her.

I have seen many double figure bass and I estimate this fish to be around ten and a quarter pounds. Warren was chuffed, he had caught what is a fish of a life time for many anglers.

We had taken some scale samples from Warrens bass and I sent them to my Dad to be read. She turned out to be at least 15 years old.

After a few more fishless casts we decided the fish had passed through and it was time to call it a day.

This had been and still is one of the highs of our 2018 bass season. But there were to be a few more later in the year at different locations and to totally different methods.

*Best wishes, Sam Cox*

## KENT BOAT REPORT

courtesy of Jason Parrott

Fishing hasn't been the most exciting with the herrings and sprats in full effect and do I mention the lack of cod? We all have our theories on this subject and mine is they are not here! However, we can still have some fun on light tackle with some nice channel whiting coming in up to 3 lb with smaller ones in numbers. Now the water has cooled down, the dabs are showing in good numbers, especially in the estuary. Steve Dentex on Dentex 3 had over 200 dabs in one session and that takes some doing. We are still catching skate in numbers and although these can be frowned upon they can be a game changer for the skippers to net a nice double figure skate when fishing is slow. There are some nice skate coming off the usual spots in North Kent and whiting so if you can brave the cold there is some exciting fishing to be had. I've tried on the slack water this year with small feathers for herrings and had good numbers, the difficult bit is keeping them on the hooks! It has been a very hard month for the boat anglers and you have to take the right people out with the attitude that there's not a lot there but we just want a good day with plenty of banter and that's what we can guarantee!

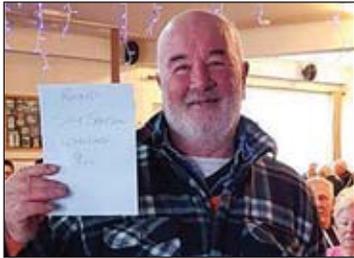
Tight lines from Team Lady Ann of Ramsgate and our next report will be from Wasana Fishing Park in Thailand. Let's hope for some monster fish!



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

# EASTBOURNE NOMADS ANGLING - OFFICERS CUP

It was a tough one! Well done to all who took part!



**Heaviest Round:**  
Sam Samson Whiting 9oz



**Heaviest Flat:**  
Tony Kirrage Flounder 11oz



### Officers Cup Pairs results

1st:	Sam Samson / Vernon Vivian	1lb 9½ oz
2nd:	Gerald Sargeant / Wes Sargeant	14oz
3rd:	Dan Wood / Tony Kirrage	11oz
4th:	Ian Smart / Steve Domsalla	10oz
5th:	Phil Chapman / Steve Frost	6oz
6th:	Matt Gifford / Michael Moule	4oz



### Officers Cup - Zone A winners

1st	Gerald Sargeant	14oz
2nd	Ian Smart	10oz
3rd	Phil Chapman	6oz
4th	Matt Gifford	4oz
5th	Vernon Vivian	3½oz



### Officers Cup - Zone B winners

1st	Tony Kirrage	11oz
2nd	Lester Dewey	drawn
3rd	Michael Moule	drawn
4th	Perer Cornwall	drawn
5th	Terry Taylor	drawn



Overall winner for the Officers Cup is Sam Samson with 1lb 6oz, well done Sam!



# ASO SPORT FISHING

## ASO TWO DAY OPEN AT HYTHE 5th & 6th JANUARY 2019

Congratulations to Nathan Elliott on winning this years Two Day Open in style, by winning both days from different ends of the venue! Nathan had 14 fish on day one to easily win D section and the Day and then on Day 2 he had 5 fish including 2 dogfish to more than double 2nd place in A section and take the day as well. Runner up, also with an impressive 2 zone wins was Craig Bradshaw, its not often 2 zone wins doesn't get you the overall win, but Nathan had more fish points so won on countback. 3rd place went to Louie Smith with a 2nd and 3rd in his zones. Fishing was very poor due to a calm few days leaving the sea almost gin clear. Several Mackerel were landed, which in January is very unusual.

**Junior winner** was Harvey Plumstead

### Overall top 10 places:

1st	Nathan Elliott	2 Points (winner on fish Countback)
2nd	Craig Bradshaw	2 Points
3rd	Louie Smith	5 Points
4th	Mark Rogers	6 Points (Countback)
5th	Saul Page	6 Points
6th	Steve Adams	7 Points (Countback)
7th	Joe Croxon	7 Points
8th	Lee Adams	8 Points (Countback)
9th	Colin Crosby	8 Points
10th	Darren Bond	8 Points



Winner Nathan Elliott

## COARSE FISHERIES

**Beaver Farm Fishery** Tel: 01342 324006 | 07710 656041  
Eastbourne Road, Newchapel, Lingfield RH7 6HL

**Cackle Hill Lakes** Tel: 01580 292292 | 291954  
Headcorn Road, Biddenden TN27 8JW or 07885 284500

**Charlies Lakes** Tel: 07857 539785  
Steeds Lane, Kingsnorth, Ashford TN26 1NH

**Chequertree Trout & Coarse Fishery** Tel: 01233 820078  
Bethersden, Ashford TN26 3JR

**Claygate Lakes** Tel: 07770 513448  
Marden B2162 between Collier Street & White Hart Pub, TN12 9PL

**Couldens Farm Fishery** Tel: 07470 854915  
Hole Lane, Edenbridge TN8 6QS

**Elphicks Fisheries** Tel: 01580 212512  
Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden TN12 8EL

**Furnace Brook Fishery** Tel: 01435 830835  
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**Gabriels Fishery** Tel: 07730 066088  
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**Greenacres Farm Fishery** Tel: 07933 934942  
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**Hawkhurst Fish Farm** Tel: 01580 753813  
Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT

**Knightingales Fishery** Tel: 07941 176205  
Stone-in-Oxney, Tenterden TN30 7HA

**Mousehole Lakes** Tel: 07725 783405  
Maidstone Road, Nettlestead, Maidstone ME18 5HR

**Orchard Place Farm Fishing Lakes** Tel: 01892 838576  
Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood TN12 6NY or 07860 608218

**Tanyard Fisheries** Tel: 07833 532842  
Tanyard Lane, Furners Green, Uckfield TN22 3RL

**Tricklebrook Fishery** Tel: 07743 955812  
Colts Hill, Five Oak Green TN12 6SH

**Wylands International AC** Tel: 01424 893394  
Wylands Farm, Powdermill Lane, Battle TN33 0SU

## ANGLING CLUBS / SOCIETIES

**Hastings, Bexhill & District**  
Postal enquiries: 53 Athelstan Road, Hastings TN35 5JF  
Tel: Chris Pagan 07429 655237 / Steve Potter 07935 268174

**Linton Angling Society** email chris@lintonangling.co.uk  
Tel: Chris Knowler 07712 622858

**Tonbridge & District A & FPS** Tel: Donna  
PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB 07947 557140

## TROUT FISHERIES

**Brick Farm Lakes** Tel: 01323 832615  
Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux BN27 4RS

**Chalk Springs** Tel: 01903 883742  
Park Bottom, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 0AA

**Chequertree Trout & Coarse Fishery** Tel: 01233 820078  
Bethersden, Ashford TN26 3JR

**Spring Hill Trout Waters** Tel: 01892 826041/07951 304515  
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