

FRESHWATER INFORMER



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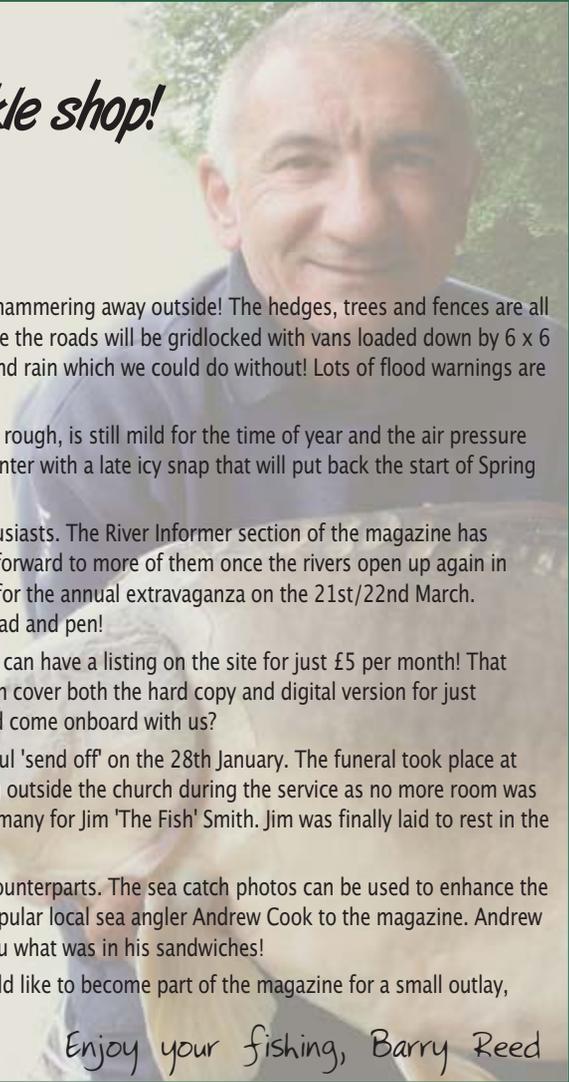
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Hello and welcome to the March issue of the Freshwater Informer!

I thought I would make an 'early' start on the March magazine and as I sit here writing Storm Ciara is hammering away outside! The hedges, trees and fences are all swaying together like well rehearsed dancers and Facebook is alive with Fencing Contractors! I am sure the roads will be gridlocked with vans loaded down by 6 x 6 panels and posts on Monday morning! Storm Dennis is now on the way, bringing yet more mayhem and rain which we could do without! Lots of flood warnings are in place throughout our region.

Despite the weather, some good catch reports have still been coming through. The weather, although rough, is still mild for the time of year and the air pressure has dropped through the floor. One can only hope that we do not pay a hefty price for our mild, wet Winter with a late icy snap that will put back the start of Spring as it did last year!

March signals the close of the River season and a three month forced 'holiday' for running water enthusiasts. The River Informer section of the magazine has proved extremely popular and I am grateful for all the catch reports that have been submitted. I look forward to more of them once the rivers open up again in June. This month also sees the ever popular Big One Show at Farnborough open its doors once again for the annual extravaganza on the 21st/22nd March. If you are attending the show, do come and say 'hello' to us on Stand 318 and pick up your free notepad and pen!

The new website goes from strength to strength with more and more visitors each month! A business can have a listing on the site for just £5 per month! That could be combined with a listing in the magazine's Directory, also for £5, meaning that a company can cover both the hard copy and digital version for just £10 per month! Why not take advantage of the magazine's ever increasing popularity with anglers and come onboard with us?

Although too late to report in the February magazine due to print dates, Jim Smith received a wonderful 'send off' on the 28th January. The funeral took place at Isfield church and there was literally standing room only. I understand that people were even standing outside the church during the service as no more room was available inside. The number of people who attended the funeral shows the respect and love from so many for Jim 'The Fish' Smith. Jim was finally laid to rest in the churchyard at Isfield.

I am always keen to receive reports from our sea anglers, in much the same way as their freshwater counterparts. The sea catch photos can be used to enhance the reports from around the region or could be a feature on their own. I am also delighted to welcome popular local sea angler Andrew Cook to the magazine. Andrew will be providing a 'warts and all' report each month from a venue near you and will even be telling you what was in his sandwiches!

The magazine is always looking for sponsors for the various sections within the magazine. If you would like to become part of the magazine for a small outlay, why not become a sponsor for the Junior Informer, Trout Informer, River Informer or Sea Informer? I am always more than happy to have a chat with you so please give me a call.

Enjoy your fishing, Barry Reed

ANGLER FINED FOR ROD LICENCE OFFENCE

A Volunteer Bailiff's evidence in court helped lead to the successful prosecution of an angler for unlicensed fishing and public order offences. Nigel Hilden (50) of Ashford, Kent was ordered to pay over £1,700 in costs and fines. In announcing the verdict, the magistrate commented on the "clear and credible evidence" given by both the Volunteer Bailiff and Environment Agency's Fisheries Enforcement Officer.

The Volunteer Bailiff Service, a partnership between the Environment Agency and the Angling Trust, proved its value after a recent trial for unlicensed fishing and public order offences. Mr. Hilden from Ashford, Kent had pleaded not guilty to charges of unlicensed fishing and using threatening, abusive and insulting words towards an Environment Agency Fisheries Enforcement Officer at Hawkhurst Fishery, Kent on 13th June 2019. However, following evidence given in court by a member of the Voluntary Bailiff Service and an Environment Agency officer, Hilden was convicted at Hastings Magistrates Court of the offences on 28th January 2020. Magistrates imposed a total penalty of £1723.11. The court heard how Hilden had been using 4 rods and was seen to reel in one of these by the Environment Agency officer. Hilden did not have a licence for the fourth rod and became abusive and threatening as the officer issued an offence report form. At this point, the Volunteer Bailiff joined the officer and his presence decreased Hilden's initial aggression.

In announcing their verdict, Magistrates commented on the clear and credible evidence given by both the Environment Agency's Volunteer Bailiff and Fisheries Enforcement Officer. Magistrates heard of Hilden's previous 72 convictions, including a prosecution for unlicensed fishing in April 2019.



A spokesperson for the Environment Agency said: "Abusive and threatening behaviour towards Environment Agency Officers and volunteers working with us will not be tolerated. We will not hesitate to take enforcement action against anyone who attempts to intimidate officers or volunteers in this way. Anyone wishing to use 4 rods, where allowed, should ensure all are licensed.

Angling Trust National Enforcement Manager, Dilip Sarkar MBE, said: "We are extremely proud of our Phase 2 Volunteer Bailiff, whose conduct in supporting the Environment Agency Fisheries Enforcement Officer was exemplary, as was his performance in the witness box, which was recognised by the Justices. This is firm evidence of the value and success of Phase 2, which we are pleased to see being extended into East Anglia, whilst further recruits will be trained for this work in the south-east."

The Freshwater Informer

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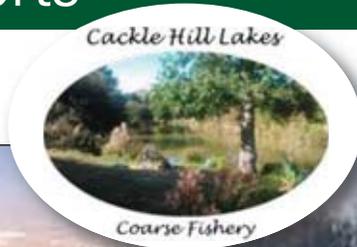


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Fishery Reports

Cackle Hill Lakes

Biddenden, Kent



SPECI 1 Lots of carp showing and some good catches this month. **Jason** from Cranbrook had a 26.8lb mirror with 4 other high doubles. A 48hr session by **Glen** and his son had 3 carp including a 21lb ghostie and two low 20lb commons

SPECI 2 A beautiful 36lb mirror caught early morning on maggot with three other carp in high doubles. **Dennis** had a cat of 48lb and four high double carp on a 48hr session and **Rich** from Headcorn had a 29lb common caught on boilies

BOTTOM LAKE has lots of small carp coming out.



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SPECIMEN LAKE 2 3.5 acres

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

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Fishery Reports

Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hawkhurst, Kent

HAWKHURST FISH FARM - Our lakes have not long reopened at the time of writing, and we are in the midst of Storm Dennis after just recovering from Storm Ciara! Understandably, we have not had too many anglers braving the weather! We've been busy behind the scenes and the majority of work we wanted to undertake is now complete. We are very pleased to say that we have also stocked some new additions, all over 30lb. This includes a gorgeous 44lb common and 36lb mirror into Specimen Lake, as well as several low to mid 30's split between Main Lake and Dove Lake.

SPECIMEN LAKE- Our member's lake has been fairly active for this time of year, and anglers who are braving the weather have been well rewarded. **Lewis Saunders** managed to net the same mirror he caught back in August 2019. Back then it weighed 30lb 8oz; it weighed in this time (February 2020) at 32lb 14oz, so it's nice to see it is putting on some weight! **Gavin Moyce** caught a scale perfect common from peg 4. **Tom Marshall** managed a 24lb common on his first session of the year, and also landed a lovely looking common on another session. **Tim Porter**



32lb 14oz Mirror - Specimen Lake - Lewis Saunders



Common - Specimen Lake - Gavin Moyce



30lb 8oz - Specimen Lake - Tim Porter



23lb 8oz Ghostie - Specimen Lake - Dan Barden



29lb 8oz Mirror - Specimen Lake - Bob Williams



29lb Mirror - Specimen Lake - Bob Williams



24lb Common - Specimen Lake - Tom Marshall



26lb 8oz Common - Specimen Lake - Dave Graveling

fished a quick overnigher and managed a 30lb 8oz mirror. **Dan Barden** fished peg 4 and caught a 23lb 8oz ghostie. **Bob Williams** managed two lovely looking mirrors, weighing in at 29lb and 29lb 8oz. **Dave Graveling** landed his first fish of the year - a mint condition 26lb 8oz common.

QUARRY LAKE - One of our most productive pleasure lakes, Quarry is still producing well, considering the colder weather we have been having. **Pete** landed himself a new **PB** in the form of a 14lb common. **Harry** caught four carp up to 12lb on his first session of the year. **Zac** landed a 14lb common on a weekend session. **Casey** caught seven fish up to 19lb during his first session of the Winter, all caught on solid bags, krill pellets, maggots and krill dust. **Ron Davies** caught twelve on his day session and lost one, all caught using maggots.

MAIN LAKE/DOVE LAKE - Both of these lakes are available for exclusive hire throughout the year, and prove to be great for work events, socials, birthday gatherings etc. Main Lake holds up to 11 anglers and Dove Lake up to 6. We are taking bookings for the whole year and weekends are proving very popular - get in touch now for more details! Fishing on both lakes has been fairly slow since we reopened two weeks ago, but we haven't had many anglers on the banks as yet. Hopefully the new stock will make an appearance in the Spring/Summer, and the catfish as the weather warms up!"



Pete - 14lb Common - Quarry Lake



Fin - Quarry Lake



Zac Prutton - Quarry Lake

Framfield Park Fishery Uckfield, East Sussex

SPRING LAKE Despite the awful weather, Spring Lake is fishing extremely well with match weights up to 100 lbs. Plenty of Carp up to 15 lbs showing in matches and to pleasure anglers. Best areas tend to be in the 40's and the 60's with best baits corn, pellet and maggot. A lot of carp are falling to the bomb or feeder especially up against the islands with bigger specimens feeding close in to the near bank later on in sessions. Good quality perch to 3 lbs still showing when fishing worm and maggot.



BROOKHOUSE LAKE Best areas are on the stream side or close to the gap in the island. Best baits are maggot

corn and pellet especially for carp up to 15 lbs. Lots of quality fish tending to be caught up against the islands on bomb when using maggot or bread punch. At this time of year feed should be kept to a minimum.

BURYWOOD LAKE Pegs on the car park side fishing very well with some nice commons to mid 20's falling to fishy flavour boilies. Again, feed should be kept to a minimum at this time of the year. Some good quality grass carp to 20 lbs showing on pegs against the dam bank.



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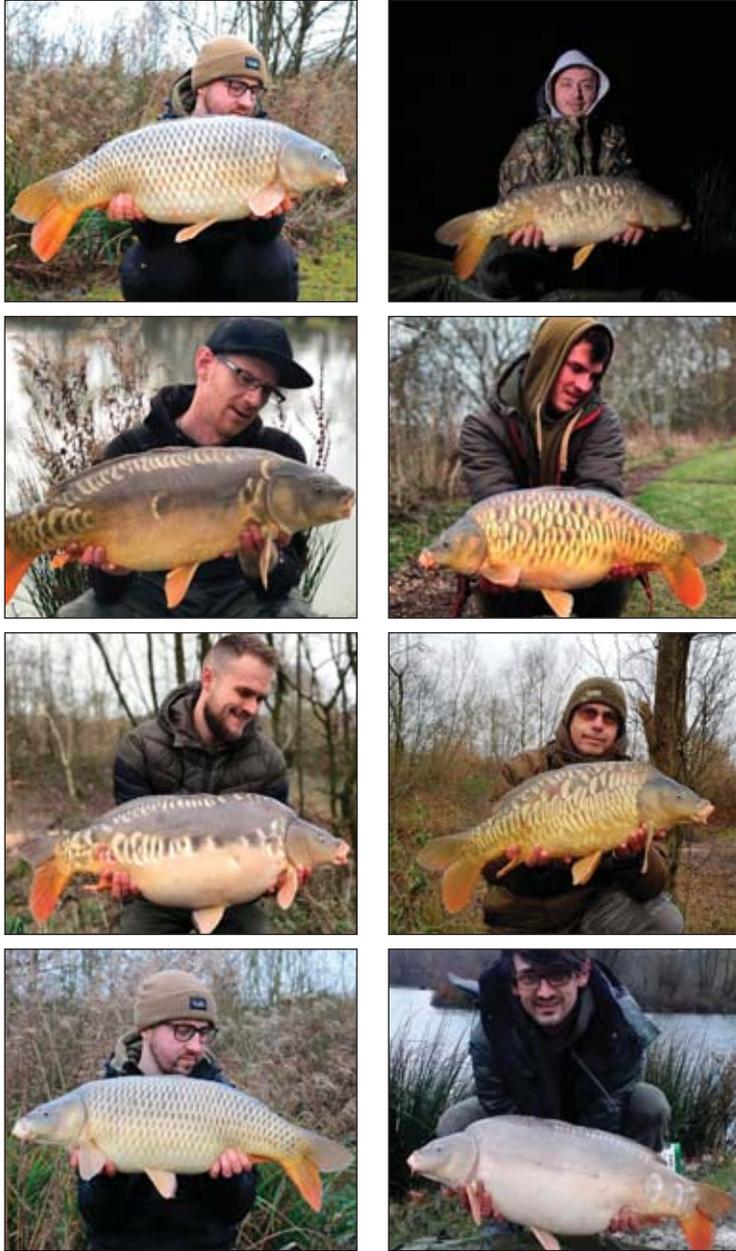


Fishery Reports

Hartley Lands Fishery Cranbrook, Kent

January has started off very well at the fishery with plenty of fish coming out all over, Nicks has been producing fish from all around the lake which is a great result. Bramley has been throwing out some amazing carp of all shapes and sizes, including some of the new stock!

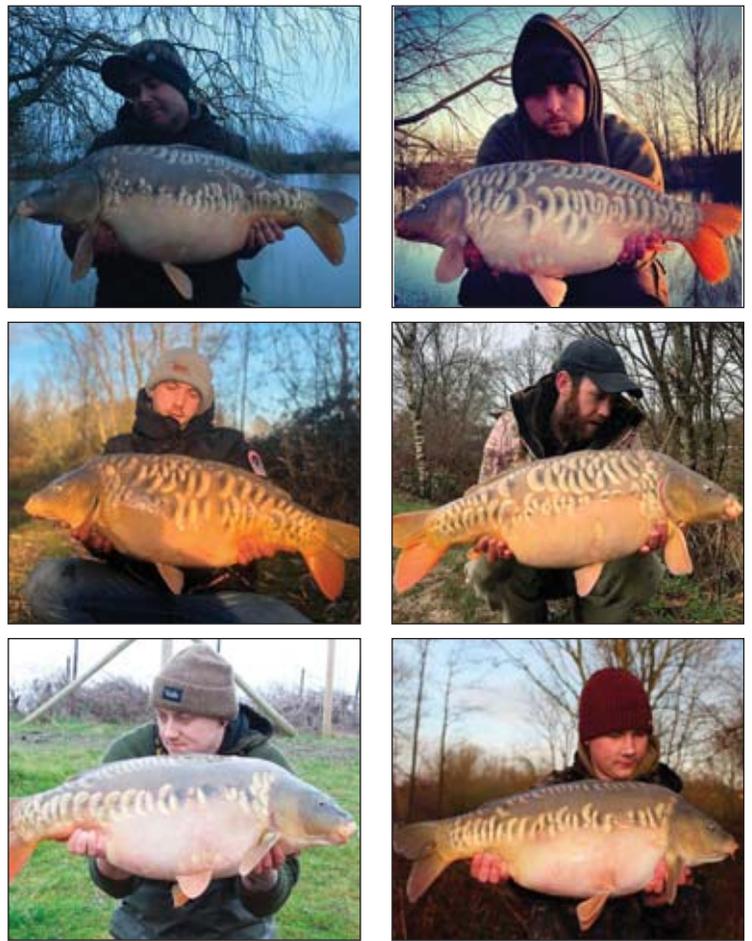
NICKS LAKE Some catch photos from the past couple of weeks:



BRAMLEY LAKE We have also added another four more 30lb carp to the complex in recent weeks, 3 made their way into Bramley and 1 into Nicks. Here are the new stock fish:



Some recent catch photos from Bramley:



CHRIS AND DAVE Father and son duo, joined us for their first ever session on Bramley in early February. They both managed to bank carp, including a new personal best of 32lb 2oz for Dave, followed by a beautiful fully scaled mirror at 23lbs 1oz. Chris also managed to get amongst the action with a pristine common weighing 21lb. It's fair to say they were both over the moon with their session and we look forward to seeing them again soon!



Hartley Lands Fishery

Swattenden Lane, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 3PS

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Fishery Reports

Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society

THE OLD BALLAST PIT has been fishing well for carp to mid twenty pound. **Kristy Knowlden** has been catching some of the recent stockies to around 15lb as well as one of the known sought after residents. A few nice bream showing also.

NEW LAGOON still producing plenty of tench to 4lb and lots of small silvers.

BARDEN LAKE has been up and fairly coloured which has slowed the carp fishing but certainly not effected the pike fishing. **Larry Howard** and his friend had a couple of nice fish each to 14lb.

Jason Craven and **Neal Rogers** had 11 fish between them to double figures and **Gareth Stokes**, his son **Alex** and friend **Mole**, had 7 fish to 17lb 8oz.

THE RIVER MEDWAY has been up and down for weeks now, but anglers that have managed to fish it as it was fining down have done well, none more so than **Malcolm Holden** who caught a cracking 23lb 8oz pike. *The Society have recently updated their clothing range, with a new logo and new garments. These can be ordered via our club Facebook page which is for members only.*



PIKE MATCH - Haysden Country Park - 26/1/20

- 1st - Neal Rogers 22lb 8oz (2 fish)
- 2nd - Ben Groombridge 15lb 1oz (2 fish)
- 3rd - Bob Doyle 11lb 10oz (1 fish)
- 4th - Dave Jones 8lb 6oz

HOUGHTON CUP 5: Hartlake Up

- 1st - Colin Fowler 2lb 7oz
- 2nd - Larry Howard 2lb 6oz
- 3rd - Roger Trask 2lb 1oz

It was the Cheeseman Cup on 9th February at the Cannon Bridge/Swanmead section. On a wet and really windy day, the 6 anglers that braved the awful conditions managed to find the few sheltered spots available, none more so than underneath Cannon Bridge itself for Match Secretary Martyn Hill.

Martyn managed to catch a bream, some bits and a lovely 12lb 4oz carp to take the trophy. In 2nd spot was Lee Wakeman who braved the Town lock wall for a while hoping to find a bream or two. Lee finished with 3lb 6oz. Ditch Howard took 3rd spot with 2lb 14oz, followed by Bob Doyle with 14oz and Mick Smith with 6oz. This makes the Match Championship very tight now with several anglers still in with a shout, especially with the odd carp making an appearance.

MATCH CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS:

- 1st - Mick Smith 85lb 2oz
- 2nd - Stuart Cottingham 78lb 10oz
- 3rd - Ray Allen 76lb 0oz
- 4th - Martyn Hill 75lb 15oz
- 5th - Ray Berry 66lb 14oz
- 6th - Tony Crossley 65lb 5oz

HOUGHTON CUP STANDINGS:

- 1st - Colin Fowler 39 points
- 2nd - Roger Trask 26 points
- 3rd - Mick Smith 25 points
- 4th - Tony Crossley 21 points
- 5th - Larry Howard 19 points
- 6th - Ray Allen 17 points

Gabriels Fishery Edenbridge, Kent

With the weather in February being the wettest on record, it can only get better!

Perch were seen spawning in February, the young fish will be feeding in the margins and amongst the water lilies. Roach and rudd will be spawning in early March and the young predators will be there ready and waiting for the feast to begin.

The water has risen up the bank and the lakes are full. The bank side holes and homes of many bees, grubs, beetles and mice have been flooded with this rise in water level. The young fish have plenty of natural food to eat. Spring is here and the fish are beginning to jump.

A new season to look forward to and maggots are the top bait for catching high numbers of fish. Flavoured meat is always loved by the carp and larger fish. The fish flavoured boilies are always popular and a large selection is kept in our tackle shop here onsite. Pop in and see our selection of accessories and take away a hot drink before viewing our five lake complex.

ADMIRAL LAKE has a good number of 30lb and 40lb carp.

OAK LAKE is regularly fished for teens and twenty lb fish.

SWALLOW LAKE is stocked with carp to 12lbs.

HARE AND SILVER LAKE are similar to each other and support twenty different species between them. These include tench, rudd, carp, bream, chub and fifteen others.

Over the winter, Admiral car park has been cleared and resurfaced after the debris that was left from the Winter storms. The track leading to the fishery has also been repaired.

HARE LAKE has been cleared of the overgrown willow that overhung the water. Parts of the lake have been cleared of silt and leaves and access to swims has been improved.



Iden Wood Fishery



Tel/Fax: Andy Ashdown
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Fishery Reports

Elphicks Fisheries Horsmonden, Kent

NORTH LAKE - Joe Shanahan had mirrors of 36.14, 34.8, 42.8 and 24. He also had commons of 39, 26, 31 and 34. **Louis Simmons** had mirrors of 31 and 43.12. **Richard Farmer** had two mirrors, 32 and 40 on live system. **Drake Richardson** had mirrors of 34, 38, 29 and 27, he also had a 41 common. **Adam Honeysett** had commons of 43 and 41. **James Fershaw** had two mirrors 32 and 31. **Alex Shipley** had mirrors of 29, 32 and 49.3. **Dean Eaton** had a 41.6 and a 26 mirror. He also had a 32.8 common. **M. Venton** had a 43 mirror on maggots. **Perry Alabaster** had commons of 28.14, 25, 18, 30 and 40.2. He also had mirrors of 20, 34.12, 26.8, 24.8 and 33. **Steve Sellick** had a 44 mirror and a 41.4 common. **John Mason** had mirrors of 35, 19.4 and 43.2 on maggots. **Billy Wells** had mirrors of 21.15, 26.6 and 31.5. He also had a 30.2 common. **Paul Matthews** had a 31.2 PB common. **Ross Farnes** had a 50.2 mirror.



Adam Honeysett 42lb North Lake 02.20



Dean Eaton 32lb 8oz North Lake 02.20



Paul Matthews 31lb 2oz North Lake 02.20



Ross Farnes 50lb 2oz North Lake 02.20



Ryan Lewis 32lb Prairie Lake 02.20

KETTLES LAKE is fishing well. Richard Cutts had five commons and six mirrors ranging from 6lb to 18lb. Scott Cook had two mirrors 15 and 18. Allen Parsons had commons of 18, 12, 16 and mirrors of 23, 19 and 24. **PULLENS LAKE** has started to produce now. Steve Adcock had a 38.8 mirror. Perry Alabaster had mirrors of 30.14, 39.2, 40.14, 26.12 and 38.12. Pete Clark had mirrors of 32 and 44.4.

WEST END LAKE is still slow to get off the mark this year. Kieron Green had a 38.4 mirror. Simon Day had a 31 mirror.



Pete Clark 44lb 4oz Pullens Lake 02.20

PLANTATION LAKE is off the mark! Mr Butler had a 31 mirror. Craig Allen had a 27.9 mirror and a 31 common. Jason Street had mirrors of 23, 21, 29, 12.

PRAIRIE LAKE - Ian Daevill had a 28.12 common and a 17 mirror. Joe Thelwell had mirrors of 30.8 and 33.5. Dan Fisk had two mirrors 18 and 28. Tony Spink had a 28.1 mirror. Ryan Lewis had 5 x 20lb mirrors and a 32 common. Stewart Fish had a 32 mirror.

SANDWICH LAKE
..... **CLOSED FOR 2020**

Wylands International AC Battle, East Sussex

Wylands are now taking bookings for our on site accommodation packages, which includes fishing for the duration of your stay. Please contact reception for more info and to book on 01424 893394.

FIELD LAKE - we have been running private club matches on Friday which have turned out to be very productive on the fishing front. All the anglers are catching with 50lb bags of carp being a regular occurrence.

HOUSE LAKE - has produced a lot of bites and produced some quality twenty lbs plus mirrors.



Grenville



Darren Killick

KELL LAKE - we haven't had many anglers fishing it recently despite the number of 30lb plus carp present. Those that have fished it, have been rewarded with some lovely specimens.



Kyle

OLD SPECI - the fish in Old Speci seem to be holed up in large groups. If you can find these groups, then multiple takes are on the cards. The lake is also producing far more double figure fish than ever.

NEW SPECI - the fish seem to be growing and growing as the lake now holds many twenties.

MIDDLE LAKE - a large number of carp are



Kyle

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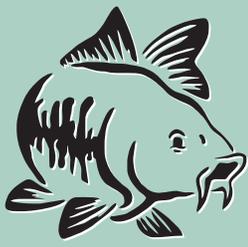
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POM'S PEG



BITE DETECTION

"Bite detection has certainly changed from when I first started fishing when it really was down to watching a float lift or dip, seeing a quiver or swing tip move, or just feel the tug of a bite through your fingers. As modern trends have advanced bite detection has moved forward with them, or has it?"

floats



The methods I have already mentioned still exist, though in rapid decline, but a new phenomenon came centre stage over the past three decades and, as with a lot of new trends, the old ones have been forgotten – even though they never 'broke'! Don't get me wrong, there has been some good moves forward within our sport, but I do worry some of the historic arts within angling are being forgotten even when they still work very well.

The development of the modern bite alarm, or indicator as it should only be known, has been a revelation on one hand but a curse on the other! Instead of the old washing up liquid bottle top or penny on the spool to give notice of a bite, these alarms have been developed to become high tech devices that can be programmed via your mobile phone and I fear as such development has continued the actual reason for their original invention has become hazy.

Bite indication is crucial when you consider the speed of a bite and, if we are not primed and ready to strike, are we not in real danger of missing bite after bite? Any good



match angler will reinforce this as they accurately set their floats to detect even the lightest of bites, appreciating what really goes on under water with years of learning, whereas others have started to rely far too much on a device which was only ever designed to give the angler notice or indication.

I read recently of an alarm that was being promoted that could give the user clear vision of what was going on below the surface, when in fact that can only ever be based on assumption and such a statement is in danger of giving anglers a confidence which can only be flawed.

Running fisheries, one of the classic and most consistent flaws I saw in using an alarm was when a fish picks up the bait and then swims towards the angler. In such circumstances (which really has to be a 50% occurrence when you consider the odds of which direction the fish takes off in) you will get minimal indication with a classic drop back. So many times, I would see an angler rush to their rod and, because there was no further indication from the alarm, then they would take no further action. The angler would just stand and wait in anticipation of another bleep. In truth there can be no further indication as slack line has been created and with the fish swimming towards you all the time it is doing its best to get rid of the rig.

What should happen is you need to be jumping on the bite, walking backwards quickly whilst striking to gain up the slack and 'catching' up with the fish. So many times a drop back is ignored when in fact it is as much a bite as a full-on screaming run. In essence, it is the same as a lift bite on a float and you should be striking and picking up any slack.

alarms



Fishing slack lines is another relatively new practice which I really cannot get my head around. I recently watched a film on YouTube where the 'star' stated that he only ever fished slack lines and didn't care about bite indication. I'm not wanting to come across as negative, but such advice is as flawed as you can get when you consider the fact that in the vast majority of angling situations and tactics bite detection is considered one of the most important factors?

There may be a time and place for using a slack line approach, but they will be few and far between in my experience. Simply put, the slacker the line the longer the time, if any at all, will there be between bite indication. Unless the hook is set swiftly then the fish has the ability, and savvy, to be able to eject the hook.

Let's be honest, how many times has our alarm given a single beep and the thought immediately goes to thinking that it was a 'liner'? Isn't that an assumption at best and couldn't it be the case that that beep was the same as your float dipping a few centimetres, more than enough indication of a bite and something you would not hesitate to strike? Just think how much line you may have out and the debris that lies on the bottom, all of which can lessen bite indication. Again, think about the times back weights are used and change the angle of your line again causing further issues in giving clear bite indication.

Trying to articulate what I'm trying to say about such an important topic within a few paragraphs is a struggle, but if you can take one thing from this: please never assume that your bite alarm is anything more than an indicator. Remember, hit those drop backs and think very carefully as to whether the situation on the day really requires a slack line or a back weight. I cannot emphasise that too many times anglers are 'getting done' through poor bite indication and, though some may not agree, I always start off with a tight line – as the accredited match anglers over the years have shown to be the most successful approach."

Simon 'Pom' Pomeroy

E-mail: simon@pallatrax.co.uk

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Fishery Reports

Mousehole Lakes Paddock Wood, Kent



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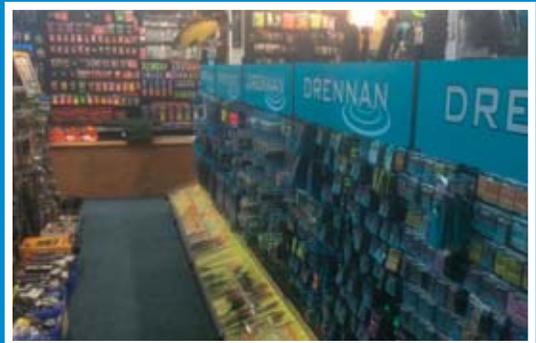
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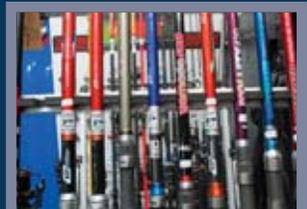
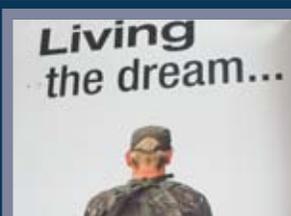


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Fishery Reports

Claygate Lakes

Claygate, Marden, Kent

"Well we hope that we have seen the worst of the storms for this year! We would like to thank the pleasure and match anglers who braved the conditions.



LAKE AMY One angler set himself a goal to catch a 30lb fish. Robert took out a year's membership and with four months left on the ticket did just that. Well done Robert on your hard work. We have looked at the picture and think this a new 30lb carp so you can name that fish.

We have stocked 27 scaly carp into Amy, pictures to follow.

LAKE EVA Pellet and maggots all taking fish with match weights averaging 70-100lb. We have introduced 800lb of carp up to 13lb recently which will make it interesting in the Spring.

LAKE SOPHIE Anglers are catching a mixed bag of silvers along with carp. Maggot, worm and pellet all seem to be working.

All lakes have been limed ready for another seasons fishing.



Orchard Place Farm Lakes Paddock Wood, Kent

Winter maintenance has been ongoing at the fishery. We have cut back a lot of the over hanging trees and snags in the water ready for the Spring. The lakes have been producing well over the cooler months as our Winter ticket holders have still been fishing on a regular basis. One angler **Gary Pilcher** had a 22 fish catch in a 48 hour session in adverse conditions on Lake 7. On Lake 11, **Wayne Gardner** had 5 fish out up to 20lb, he had a brilliant 24 hour session. Fishing Lake 8, **Sam Hilder** had three fish up to 32lb on a 24 hour session. **Kieron Conway** had 6 fish, the biggest being 22lb 9oz on Lake 8 in the New Year. Even in the storm



Lake 11 - 20lb

on Sunday 9th of February, our match lakes produced really well. Lake 5 had a winning weight of 97lb and Lake 6 had weights of 1st 149lb, 2nd 146lb, 3rd 138lb and 4th 130lb!

We look forward to seeing you on the bank very soon.



Freddie Reeves - 22lbs Lake 7



Alan - 31lbs Lake 8



Kieron Conway - 22lbs Lake 8



Wayne Gardener - 21 lbs Lake 4

Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

Well, what can we say about the last month? The weather has not been kind to us at all what with Storm Ciara bashing us about and causing Ben and I to get a little behind schedule with our winter works due to the excess water we had to deal with and then the clearing of the fallen trees in some of the lakes. Now, as I am writing this report, Storm Dennis has decided to visit us too! However, fish have still been banked. Ben and I are especially pleased as the V.S Fish stock we put into Snipe Lake at an average weight of 15lb are now being banked at over 20lb. Well done to these anglers:

SNIFE LAKE Darryl Cook was back and continued to find the fish. He banked a mirror of 20-08 which was stocked in at 16-10, then he had 2 good commons at 26-04 and a massive 28-02. **Chris Edland** banked 'Hayleys Mirror' for the 2nd time, but this time she went 36lb which is Chris's English PB and he also banked a mirror of 16-04. **Graham Smith** banked a 16-02 fully scaled mirror. **Brian Doran** banked a mirror of 20-12 which was stocked at 17lb. **Daryl McLaren** had a 21-02 mirror that was stocked at 16-04 and a 27-02 mirror. Well done also to **Daniel Halgado** who banked his first carp out of **Snipe Lake** after a few sessions and it was a 17-12 mirror that was stocked in at 13-10.

TUSCANY LAKE As you would imagine, it has been quiet for anglers due to the cold weather but **Terry Pook** gave it a go and banked a catfish of 33-09.



Brian Doran - Snipe Stockie over 20lb



Chris Edland 36lb PB - Snipe



Daniel Holgado - Snipe Stockie



Daniel Holgado - Daughters Stockie



Darryl Cook - Snipe Stockie over 20lb



Darryl Cook - Snipe



Daryl McLaren - Snipe Stockie over 20lb



Daryl McLaren - Snipe

JEFF'S LAKE has been popular as it tends to fish in the colder months and we have seen day anglers landing plenty of F1's and bream mainly on the feeder with a mix of pellet and corn.

MOAT POND has been fishing quite well even though we have had some freezing temperatures. **Mark Boast** has banked a few small carp and bream, **Nick Burley** had 6 carp to 5-04 and 4 bream and **Hedley Humphrey** banked a chub of 2-08.

DAUGHTERS LAKE has not seen a lot of pressure which encourages the fish to slow up a bit in the colder water, but a few fish have been banked. **Terry Edwards** banked a mirror of 9-08 and a grass carp of 11lb, **Paul Shorey** had 2 mirrors at 10lb and 12-04 and **Daniel Halgado** braved Storm Ciara and banked a mirror of 10-04. I even managed to wrinkle out a 13-14 grassie.

EDEN POND has had plenty of water flowing through it due to the excessive amount of rainfall which has in turn coloured the water a bit. The anglers that have fished on there have caught more tench than we thought would be banked at this time of year. A typical example of this is when **Pawel Lesniak** had a go and banked 6 tench to 3-08 and 2 F1's.

MAJORS LAKE has produced a few smaller pike and more carp with **Mat Sayer** landing a mirror of 15lb and **Alfie Hawkins** banking a cracking looking 14-02 fully scaled mirror.



Alfie Hawkins 14-02 Majors



Paul Shorey - Daughters Stockie

Well done to all and don't forget to send in your catch report pictures to us!



Pawel Lesniak - Eden

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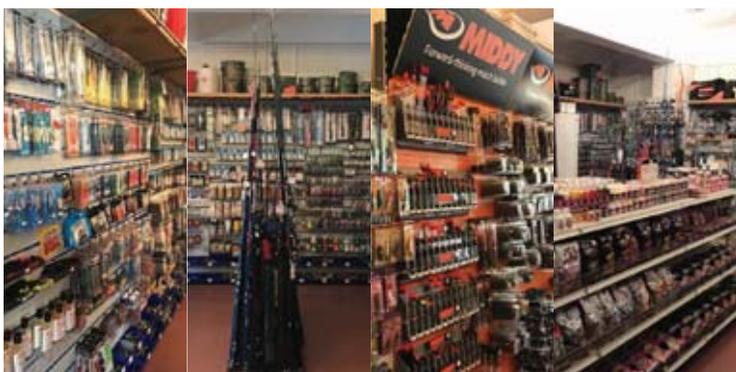


Dan finds the fish at Hartley Lands

Dan Styles sent in this catch report after a good day at Hartley Lands Fishery: "Evening Barry.. I thought I'd make the most of the mild weather today after the frosts earlier on in the week so I had a go at Hartley Lands and I managed to catch a few little uns! I guess the big girls are still 'sleeping up' somewhere. I was glad to get a few though. Bait was Essential Cell wafers which done the biz as usual. I moved swims at around midday to where I could see carp showing. The move clearly paid off. I was on the Reservoir and as I'm still off until the middle of next week I might try and get out again Monday or Tuesday."



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Magical session for Ross!

Ross Farnes sent in this great report after a recent session at Kent's Elphicks Fishery near Goudhurst: "I had a recent 36 hour session on Elphicks North lake from Sunday evening to Tuesday morning and what a way to go for the first session of 2020 and in February!

I arrived at the lake and had a chat with a few lads who had been fishing and they informed me that it had been fishing well on the deeper part of the lake but had slowed down over the previous 24 hours. With that in mind and after looking at the weather forecast, I decided to head for the shallower water. I chose a swim between the two islands and after having a few casts with just a bare lead, I clipped the rods up and decided to just fish with PVA bags for the night. Within 2



hours, the first fish was in the net, a cracking 34lb common. New rig on and I then cast back out on the money. The rod ripped off again 6 hours later with a 'whale' of a mirror rolling into my net. I was buzzing at the sight of what looked to be a good 40lb fish. The scales then rattled round to the 50lb mark so she was safely retained until a couple of good pals could get through the gates to weigh and verify, which we all then agreed on a final weight of 50.2 lb and after chatting with the bailiffs, they confirmed it was a new lake record.

Monday day time was extremely quiet so I decided to put some bait in and play the waiting game which paid off. I ended up with another four fish weighing 27.4, 32, 41.2 and 38.8 lb giving me 2 mirrors and 4 commons. A session I will never forget." **Top angling Ross, well done!**



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GROUNDBAIT CLINIC

BY ANDY PHELPS



After a few months off due to injury and car issues, it was time to go out and try my new Middy XZ65-3 pole and a few hours on Black Lake at Cottington sounded like a good idea.

I know the venue has been fishing quite hard in recent weeks, as I had fished some of the silver league matches on there, where the weights were shockingly low. Using this information to my advantage, I decided to adopt a totally different approach to the session. My groundbait mix was a traditional mix with no fishmeal in it, just a simple mix of Van den Eynde Supercrack roach black and Formule M herbs. My thinking was that roach don't seem to like the fishmeal mixes, so by using a roach mix, I might be able to snare a few roach.



I set up two rigs for the session, the first was a Middy Carp Blue series 1 and the other a series 2. The only difference between these floats is their diameter, one has a 1.5mm and the other a 2mm bristle. Both rigs were made up on 0.16 Middy Lo-Viz line, one rig had a size 18 Middy 63-13 hook and the other a 16 of the same pattern. The smaller being for single or maggot or double pinkie, and the larger for worm fishing.



I plumbed up three swims, two at 13 meters and one at 6 meters, luckily all swims were the same depth, so I could get away with the same rigs. Before starting, I minced up a few worms and added some dead pinkies into my groundbait mix. I decided to feed two small balls at 6 meters and one on each of the 13-meter lines as I intended on fishing these lines first whilst the 6-meter line was left to settle.

My opening gambit was to start on the left-hand 13-meter swim with double live pinkie to see if I could get a bite. It did not take long to get an indication. First fish of the session was a 2oz roach, a nice start in comparison with some of the struggles others have endured during matches here. Second drop in and a duplicate of the first roach was safely landed. I managed to catch five more roach on this line before it dried up, so I fed that line again with a small ball of groundbait and dead pinkies and tried the other 13-meter line. Expecting a bite, I waited and waited until I decided to try something different, a quick change to single red maggot on the hook triggered a quick response from another three roach before that also went dead. Swapping back to my original line, I noticed a few bubbles, reaching for my heavier rig with the size 16 hook, I hooked on a worm head and shipped out. I knew I had to be patient, but after ten inactive minutes, I reverted back to the smaller hook and single maggot. The small roach were still there, and also a few larger samples of around the 6oz mark. With the wind picking up and making things a little awkward, I thought I'd try the short line to see if any signs of life were there. To my amazement, there were a lot of roach and also a few skimmers of around the 8oz mark here. I plodded along catching these for a while before having another dabble at trying to catch a bream, which I failed at, sadly.



After fishing for around 2.5 hours, I was quite happy. I had managed to catch a few roach and small skimmers. This session also helped me work a few things out for future matches on here, I don't know why the bream seem to shy away during the winter months on this lake, but by targeting the roach some great sport can be had

Tight lines Andy.

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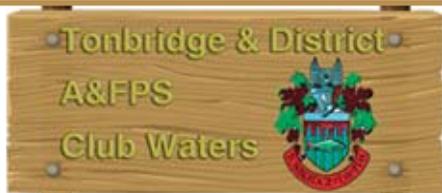
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e-mail: chris@lintonangling.co.uk

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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.

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For further information please contact:

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River Rother

welcome to...

CROWBOROUGH TACKLE

E.S.P

GARDNER

SHIMANO



CROWBOROUGH TACKLE has been established for fifteen years and has long been a popular haunt of local club, pleasure and specimen anglers. Sandra Lawrence, the previous owner, decided to take her retirement last year and well known Sussex angler **Jed Kent** (pictured right) took the opportunity to pick up the reins last June.

The shop has taken on a new look recently as Jed and 'part time helper' (!), dad Graham, have changed the layout and re merchandised the stock. Graham is a similar well known angler himself, having fished for over fifty years and having many notable catches. Graham was featured in one of the first copies of the Freshwater Informer with an article from Iden Wood and went on to write further articles for a year! Many Hastings anglers will remember the days when Graham used to run Redferns before it became AR Tackle at Hastings!

Born in Hastings, Jed was introduced in to fishing by his dad when he was a young child and has a very creditable PB of 50lbs from an Essex water. Jed is no stranger to the angling press having wrote many articles for popular titles during his periods of consultancy with noted companies such as Nash and JRC and received his first sponsorship at the age of 21. Jed continues his consultant role with Hinders. This is fuelled by his interest in baits and the science in to how they work and their appeal to fish. If you ever need advice on bait, speak with Jed! Although Jed's passion is now for carp fishing, he has enjoyed all disciplines and methods including fly, coarse and sea, but admits carp are now his love. Jed once caught a 13 lbs pike when he was just three years old! Between them, Jed and Graham are well placed to offer sound advice to anglers on many of the waters in the local area and beyond.

WHAT CAN CROWBOROUGH TACKLE OFFER?



CROWBOROUGH TACKLE carries an extensive range of products from all the leading manufacturers and caters for carp, coarse, match, pleasure, sea, fly and predator anglers. The store is also able to offer rod and pole repairs and has membership applications for all the local clubs, including Crowborough, who they work very closely with, particularly with sponsorship and support for the junior activities.



TACKLE

The match and pleasure catered for with ranges from Innovations, Drennan, G and Leeda. Predator angling own stand and there is a fishing accessories as well also inexpensive starter anglers.



CARP BAITS

Frozen and shelf life baits, including flavourings etc from Nash, Hinders, Baits, Sticky Baits, CC Moore, Dyna and Mainline.



Opening Times: Monday,

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BAITS It goes without saying that plenty of bait is on offer!

COARSE BAITS

An extensive range is offered from all the leading companies including Sonubaits, Hinders, Bait Tech, Dynamite, Sensas and Ringers. Fresh baits are always in stock and include maggots, casters and worms with frozen packs of dead baits for the predator anglers.

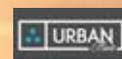
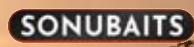
Sea anglers are catered for with a range of frozen baits as well!



Anglers are from Preston, Korum, and have their range of sea baits. There are kits for junior



Plenty to choose from for the carp anglers! Top manufacturers include Korda, Nash, Gardner, Fox, ESP, Sonik, Daiwa, Shimano, Cygnet, Trakker, Aqua, Ridge Monkey, Wychwood and Enterprise. These are all supplemented with a range of power packs, cookware, gas and clothing from Bass, Skeetex and Navitas.



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



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What are you waiting for? Grab your rods and head down to your favourite water and remember to take your phone or camera!



WINNER

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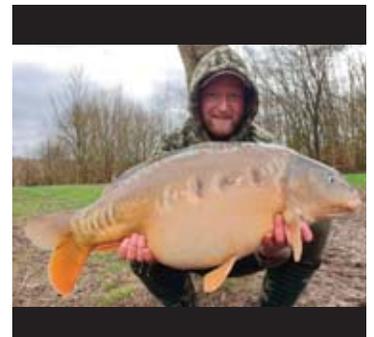
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JACK WOOD LOCAL RIVER

19/1/2020 Medway Tackle Silvers league

FRANT LAKES - all lakes 48 fished

After two hard frosts, anglers were expecting the worse, but the venue fished well. Top was Adam Lee (Bordon Angling) who had 23-10-0 of skimmers from peg 18 on car park lake on long pole and maggot over groundbait. At the next peg team mate Terry Malloy had a similar bag for 19-12-0.

1. **Adam Lee** (Bordon Angling) 23-10-0
2. **Terry Malloy** 19-12-0
3. **John Daniels** (Medway Tackle) 16-0-0
4. **Graham Ault** (Medway Tackle) 15-8-0
5. **Fred Brown** (South East Match Group) 13-10-0
6. **Paul Udell** (Maver SE) 13-8-0

League: Ian Corke (Medway Tackle) and Jamie Grainger (Preston Innovations Delcac) 3; Paul Lamb (South East Match Group) and Adam Lee 4; Nick Hyde (Medway Tackle) 5

29/1/20 MONK LAKES Silverfish Two Day Festival

Bridges Lake - 28 fished

Fished in very windy but mild weather, this mini festival attracted a quality field. Fred Brown (South East Match Group) came out on top to continue his impressive run of results. He had 39-5-0 of bream and skimmers on method feeder and pellet over the two days.

Overall result:

1. **Fred Brown** (South East Match Group) 39-5-0
2. **Tony Head** (Medway Tackle) 36-10-0
3. **Charlie Lovell** (Preston Innovations Delcac) 33-11-0
4. **Brian Nesbitt** (NuFish) 31-13-0

Day One:

1. **Jay Lay** (Medway Tackle) 26-9-0
2. **Tony Head** 23-0-0
3. **Charlie Lovell** 21-15-0

Day Two:

1. **Brian Nesbitt** 23-2-0
2. **Fred Brown** 21-6-0
3. **Tony Head** 13-10-0



1st Feb 2020 MONK LAKES Silvers Open

Puma lake, Marden, Kent. 16 fished

The mild weather resulted in the best weights of the winter on this lake. Maurice Leask (Monk Lakes) won from peg 28 in the bay with 28-8-0 of bream on feeder and maggot. Second was Richard Hall (Medway Tackle) with 27-11-0 of big bream on method feeder and band-ums on peg 16.

1. **Maurice Leask** (Monk Lakes) 28-8-0
2. **Richard Hall** (Medway Tackle) 27-11-0
3. **Fred Brown** (South East Match Group) 26-13-0
4. **George Newstead** (Canterbury AS) 17-12-0

5/2/20 MONK LAKES Silvers Open

Bridges Lake - 25 fished

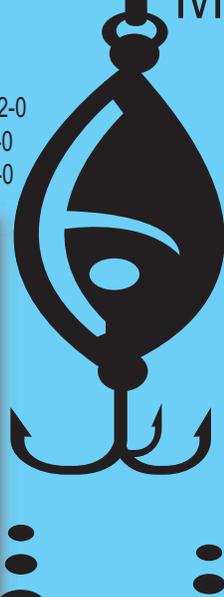
On a lovely mild day, the fish turned up in numbers. Barry Upperton (Meatbashers) won off peg 5 with a level 31-0-0 of bream on pole and feeder on pellet. Fred Brown (South East Match Group) continued his impressive run with second off peg 22 with 28-1-0 of bream on method feeder and pellet.

1. **Barry Upperton** (Meatbashers) 31-0-0
2. **Fred Brown** (South East Match Group) 28-1-0
3. **John Robinson** (Medway Tackle) 22-5-0
4. **Richard Harris** (East Peckham) 19-1-0
5. **Richard Hall** (Monk Lakes) 15-4-0
6. **Jay Lay** (Monk Lakes) 15-3-0

Match Results
courtesy of Fred Brown



*Fred Brown
Silverfish Festival
Day Two catch:*



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Junior Informer



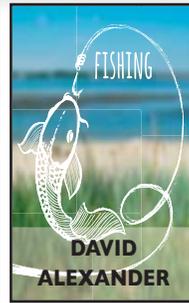
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Thank you to our Junior Informer Sponsors

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

The recent storms Ciara and Dennis certainly made fishing difficult if not impossible during the last few weeks. However, when the weather was favourable, many young anglers got out on the banks as you can see from the Junior Photo Album! Well done to all of them!

It is very easy to send us your catch photos. They can be sent by email to barnic@btinternet.com or by message to the magazine's popular Facebook page. Please remember that we do need your parents' or guardians permission to publish your photos.

Due to printing dates, I am writing this before you break up for the school half term holiday. I do hope that the weather will be better and mean that you can do some fishing. March can be both a good and bad month for the weather. Although it is officially the first month of Spring, it is not unusual to have snow and ice! Let's hope that we don't get any of that and the Spring arrives early.

Many thanks to all our Junior Informer sponsors who generously fund our junior section. I am always keen to hear from new sponsors who would like to get involved and show that they care about promoting fishing to the next generation. Without our valued sponsors, these pages would not be possible so 'Thank You' one and all! If you would like to become a sponsor, all the magazine's contact details are on the inside front cover.

Business owners – I am always looking for sponsors for the Junior pages as it is the sponsorship that helps us provide these pages dedicated to young anglers. If you would like to get involved and show the angling community that you care about getting young people fishing, please get in touch with us by phone, email or Facebook message. All our contact details are at the front of the magazine.

FISHING FOR SCHOOLS

March Update

This month Warren White, Fishing for Schools (F4S) coordinator for Kent, has written about an AIM Award course he ran at Nexus School in Tonbridge. AIM Awards are OfQual regulated qualifications and our pupils can work towards an accredited Level One AIM Award in angling skills.

Warren writes: The Nexus School group has some challenging students, but they have coped well with this course. It's natural for young people to love to go fishing, but for a special education needs (SEN) group like them to have the patience to get the paperwork completed for an academic qualification says everything about their dedication.

There has been a good partnership between the school and F4S, with this AIMS course being part-funded by the school itself.



Last summer a team of Fishing for Schools coaches held their first fishing course at the school, which the students really enjoyed. The forward-thinking staff at the school understood the benefits to their students and wanted to carry on doing more fishing sessions. So, starting in November, we embarked on a 10-week AIM course, which can help with future employment.

It is never easy to run an angling course through the winter months as the fishing is at its hardest, but by mixing the sessions up, some on the bank and some in the school, we have managed to deliver an informative course and one that the young people have really enjoyed.

Throughout the course the students have given their best. We started with six students and finished with six students which is rare for a long course, such as this. They have been a really good group and proved to have some handy young fisherman amongst them.

Nexus School and Fishing for Schools have played a blinder here by giving the boys the opportunity in the first place and the young people have taken their opportunity and are all now better anglers for it.

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Fishing 4 Schools – March Tip of the Month

from instructor Rob Goble

If like me you are longing for Spring to arrive, turning the calendar over to March is very welcome! The trees start turning from that dark grey or brown hue to a life-giving green and longer day light hours and the clocks going forward later in the month, will put a spring in your step.

After their long, dormant, Winter's rest, branches reach out with buds bursting in new growth and bathed in the warming airing sunlight, flora and fauna doing the same. Daffodils abound, with their yellow flowers waving in the warm breeze, reed stems push up their green spiky stems to gather up the sunlight and you say to yourself "life is good again".

If you intend to holiday in Wales this year and do a little fishing, I can recommend the Elan Valley near Rhayader. It is a most spectacular area for scenery, but then Wales is a beautiful country with breath-taking vistas from coast to country.

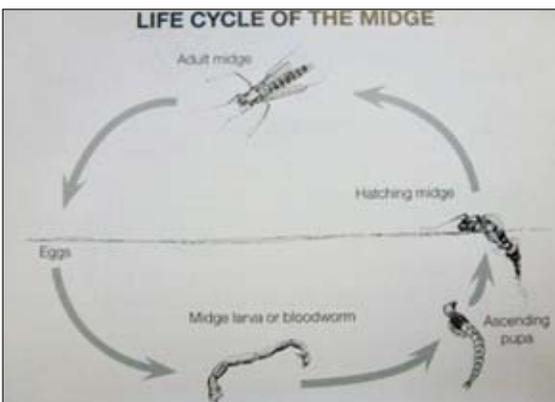


Here is a picture of the dam and spillway at Claerwen Reservoir, one of five lakes that spill into each other. Wales does have a lot of rain throughout the year and the spectacle of the water tumbling over into the gorges and out into another lake, then into the river Elan and finally into the river Wye is very special. Even if it hasn't been raining and there is no water coming over the top, it is still a wondrous place to be. Red kites abound and their shrill cries can be heard far and wide.

I could write a whole article about the many places worth a visit and the fishing, but I thought I would just share this little piece with you.



Back to the fishing... life beneath the water is also awakening. All manner of invertebrates are bursting forth - shrimps, lice, olives, March browns and the midges, or as we anglers call them, buzzers. The correct name for this order is Chironomidae and these little creatures are non-biting, unlike their cousin the



Midge Life Cycle - courtesy of *The Pocket Guide to Matching the Hatch* by Peter Lapsey

biting midge which likes the stagnant ponds and some water butts. Buzzers live in all lakes and rivers and are a very important food source for fish, especially trout.

The life cycle of the buzzer is fairly straightforward. Mating begins in the air above the water, the female delivers her eggs onto the water, they fall down into the silty bottom, after a time the midge larvae hatch. They are worm-like in appearance, in various shades of brown, green and mostly red (the latter being known as a "bloodworm"). They swim with a lashing motion and there could be thousands, if not millions, squirming around on the silty bottom of lakes and rivers, a feast for all hungry fish.

When ready to pupate, they emerge with a tapered body and bulbous thorax, with wing cases of orange in colour and tufts of white breathing filaments on their heads. They will thrash their way to the surface, often falling back, only to try again.

Once on the surface, they quickly wriggle out from the shuck, to fly off and the whole cycle repeats itself. As it emerges from its shuck, the midge it is very vulnerable to predation not only from fish but birds, which feed on them avidly.

Once in the air, they are of no use to fish, but will be a meal for many birds and at the beginning of Spring you will see the first of the swifts and swallows that have flown all the way from Africa. You will spot these magical birds swooping and diving over the water picking off midges at high speed. They move north until the cooling of the season, then return all the way back to Africa.



Fishing with a fly based on the buzzer is fairly easy, as I have mentioned in previous columns. All that is required is an 8 to 9-foot fly rod with a 5 to 6 weight floating fly line and a tapered leader, to aid turnover, of 6 to 7lbs breaking strain then your offering attached.

Cast out and give it time to sink. You might get a take as it falls through the water, so be ready. You can also use a countdown method of one to 20 seconds, then start your retrieve but very slowly or just let the wind fish it for you.

Remember to keep in touch with the fly line, too much of a belly in your line and you could miss a take, so keep the slack to a minimum. Don't forget buzzers are very slow movers.

Apart from fishing the midge, which is a more natural way to fish, you could also try your usual lures. The cat's whisker, Viva and black and green are always good early bankers but this little favourite of mine (pictured) is called a cormorant. A very clever fly, it incorporates many of the properties of other flies - marabou wing tips for example - and its body mimics several creations, stacking the odds in your favour!



That's all for now. Keep warm, be safe and don't forget to wear glasses and a hat, but most of all have fun. **Bob G.**

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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
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- 500g of Carp Crush groundbait/method mix
- Anti-tangle foam
- Boilie stops
- Packet of Gammarus shrimp
- Packet of 15 x 10mm 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



George Clark with Grandad Lester



Jenson Adams River Lea - Barbel



MILO HOOPER - 9LBS WYLANDS



REUBEN DRAKE - STONES FISHERY



SKYE STANLEY AND DAD ANDREW AT HARTLEY LANDS

PB pike on a fly for Edward!

Proud dad, James King, sent in this great report for son Edward who caught his PB pike on a fly:

"My son Edward, who turned 11 on 30th January, had a great birthday present on 1st February when he caught his first



river pike on the fly, which turned out to be a personal best for him at 14.3lb.

It was caught at Timsbury on the River Test. He is one happy boy and I'm a very proud Dad!"

Thanks and all the best, James King



Is Xamie our youngest reader?

Xamie's grandad, David Boyle from East Peckham, sent in this great photo of his grandson, who is just 18 months old, reading his copy of the magazine. Xamie who lives with his parents in Tilberg, Netherlands, is obviously enjoying his monthly reading!



First carp for Jacob!

Proud dad Ben Parsons sent in this great report after his young son Jacob caught his first carp:

"I took my boy Jacob down to my members lake in the hope of him catching his first carp and he had great success with this stunning common at 15.4lbs. He is only 5 years old!"



River Informer

Welcome to the March River Informer!

We have most certainly experienced some pretty savage weather over the past few weeks! Just as the rivers were fining down, along came Ciara and Dennis and levels are back to the tops of the banks once again. I was hoping that conditions would steadily improve as we (technically!) come out of Winter and enter in to Spring and anglers would be able to enjoy the last of the season. Saying that, anglers have managed to wet a line and some great reports have been received. The pike fishing has remained steady and some super specimens have been banked. Mark Day was telling me that he reckoned that this Winter has provided him with some of the best pike fishing he has experienced and judging by his report in this section, I can't argue with that! Thank you to everyone who got in touch to say how much they enjoyed Colin Etherington's first article in the February magazine. We certainly look forward to more of Colin's offerings in future issues!

YOUR CATCH REPORTS

Dean is in fine form!



An hour's deadbaiting on the Stour produced this fine 22lbs pike.

Dean Creasey has been making the most of the last weeks of the season:

He sent in this great photo of a 7lbs 12oz barbel caught from the River Stour.



Mark is finding the pike!

Mark Day sent in this report after a fantastic short session on the Stour:

"Hi Barry, I saw your article in the Freshwater Informer asking for catch reports from the river. I went recently on the river Stour before work recently and had these three beauties in a mad 25 minutes. The biggest went just over 16lb."



Jack is finding the pike

Jack Wood sent in this report after a short session on a local river:

"I had a nice two hours targeting pike this evening on a local river and had two small jacks of 4lb 3oz and 1lb 8oz. Not bad for my second session fishing for them this season!"



"I decided to go back on the river Stour for 3 and a half hours before work again and caught these four fish."



These short early sessions are really paying off!"



Another river session produced these two beauties. Mark said that although he has been fishing for 49 years and has pike fished for 24 of them, this has been his best season to date!



Medway pike for Matthew



Matthew Good sent in this report of his first night pike caught on trout dead bait from the River Medway. The fish weighed 10lbs 4ozs.



I trust that everyone enjoyed Colin's first article in the February magazine. Given the feedback that was received, it was indeed a popular part of the magazine! Colin returns this month with another interesting feature on the welfare of barbel:

"The Sussex Ouse is certainly a river that has responded well to the introduction of barbel and I don't think anyone can argue that they have thrived. Angling is always changing and the welfare of fish has become more and more important over the last three decades. My view is that it started with the explosion of carp fishing, suddenly commercial carp fisheries were springing up everywhere and the owners of these fish wanted to protect their welfare. Unhooking mats, barbless and micro barbed hooks all became the norm and those without them in many cases weren't allowed to fish.

Carp fishing suddenly became very popular and anglers over a very quick period of time had access to large fish that weren't previously available to the general club angler. With this came a better quality of bait which in turn made the fish put on significant weight in short periods of time. Other species benefited from the introduction of quality bait including tench, bream and of course our subject fish BARBEL. It is my opinion that many of the big fish we catch today are a result of high nutrient baits.



Quality baits are a must for the fish & environment

Since the explosion of carp angling, we are now experiencing a surge in anglers targeting other species that also have grown considerably big over the last two decades. Barbel are certainly one of these species that also has benefited from high

quality baits being introduced into the rivers. Consequently, more and more anglers are switching from carp angling to specimen river angling.

In order to protect barbel and to consider their welfare, I would strongly recommend that if you aren't a knowledgeable angler then perhaps you should take on board the following points:

1. Use tackle that is suitable for the job! - If you are targeting barbel please don't use a rod that is less than a 1.5 test curve. Personally, I use the Korum 12' 2lb TC models and they work brilliantly for me. I have the power in these through action rods to turn a fish away from snags. Trust me, I have them literally bent in half with line still be stripped from the spool and often apply finger pressure to my spool to slow the fish down.
2. It's also paramount that mono line of at least 12lb breaking strain is matched to the rod and reel. Some clubs even have rules as to what minimum breaking strain line should be used. I use Daiwa Sensor 12lb as my mainline and then use either 10lb or a 12lb Drennan fluorocarbon hooklink. Monofilament line doesn't last forever and sunlight can, over a period of time, damage it as does pulling for a break if snagged up. Consequently look for abrasions and change your line at least once a season.
3. Small baits aren't necessary for barbel and they have relatively big mouths, consequently I use size 4, 6 & 8's. If allowed, I prefer to use a micro barbed hook as I often will be using lobs for bait and they retain my bait well. If I'm using pellets/boilies on a hair then I will opt for a barbless version.
4. Landing nets are also important and a minimum of a 36" net is required. I like a knotless net and one that is relatively deep. The net needs to be able to allow the river to flow through so that the barbel can fully recover in the current of the river.



Everything is ready!

5. Unhooking mats are without question an absolute must, in my opinion the bigger the better.

Now we come to the weighing and photographing of fish. Most people will want to have a picture memory of the fish as well as knowing the true weight. I'm pretty rigid in my process of weighing and photographing fish and it is almost exactly the same for all species.



Checking my trusty Avons at work

Once the fish is in my net, I don't initially lift the fish from the water. I might take a curious look, but I keep the fish in the water. Hence, the reason I like a deep net. I then position my unhooking mat and soak it in water. My scales and weigh sling are then set up. My weigh sling is completely soaked and rung out, my scales are then zeroed with the weigh sling attached. It means that whatever the scales read is the true weight of the fish. I don't need to start deducting the weight of the sling as the scales have already been zeroed. I then lift the fish and

net onto my unhooking mat and unhook it. The fish is then slid/lifted straight into the weigh sling. The scales are then read and an accurate weight is obtained. I occasionally take my scales into work to check their accuracy.

I personally, then return the fish to the net before it is rested in the margins with the head of the fish facing into the current. I then decide on where I'd like to have the picture taken. Obviously be careful on the back ground you choose, alternatively you can get an APP for your phone that will blur out the background. It is also my suggestion that you get yourself a tripod to hold your phone, I use the NGT tripod which is relatively inexpensive at approx £20.



Colin with another fine Winter barbel

Once you are ready to take the picture lift the net from the water and using a voice activated APP you can then tell the camera to take pictures once you are ready. If we are in the summer months I tend to rest the fish longer as the oxygen levels are generally lower than in the colder winter months. I will then return the fish to the water and rest it once again. I'm fortunate to own a 50" net which I used for cat fishing, so I do retain the fish in this incredibly deep big net making sure the fish is always upright. This is an ideal time to reflect on the pictures you've taken making sure they are of the quality you are looking for. Of course, if the pictures aren't of the right standard then you can of course repeat the process."

Tight lines everyone till next month.

Colin Etherington

Medway Man

Bob Morris

The most amazing weather is occurring this Winter. We seem to have almost completely avoided the freezing spells that are normally a regular feature of this time of year - even during some of our milder recent winters, particularly in the South East. I can only remember a handful of frosty mornings since November this season.

As I write this, it is late February and we are within casting distance of the river fishing closed season again! You would think that this prolonged mild spell would have been good for fishing in general, but as far as the rivers are concerned, there has been so much in the way of high water levels and flooding recently that it is really only by picking your times carefully that it has been possible to get fishing at all. I have never been one to shy away from difficult conditions on the rivers, but you do have to be able to see where they actually are, in order to be in with a chance.



River Eden at Penshurst

My last trip to the Medway was halted when I arrived at Penshurst to find the normally narrow and windy river Eden was more than 100 yards wide! My last few sessions have been a bit of a challenge due to rain and high water, and also completely blank. It is true that prior to this, I had been having some success, but being able to get out at the right time was proving a bit of a struggle, due to various commitments and also the constant bugs that I have suffered ever since the Autumn. I had got rather behind with my rod building work as well, which further restricted my fishing time. When I have been out on the rivers recently, the muddy conditions have made the banks extremely treacherous and my knotted rope and peg has been in constant use - even in swims where I would never have dreamt of using it in the past. These conditions; high coloured water and strong flow are no good for

piking (in my experience) and so I have only really fished a couple of still waters so far this year. I still have a few sessions left to go, but I have to admit that I am rather disappointed in my pike tally this year, in spite of the restrictions.

I seem to have suffered from a relative lack of action with about fifteen fish gracing my net and a further dozen or so other chances missed / takes dropped etc. I probably did not help myself by



Bob has got behind with his rod building!



Piking has been hard work

just sticking to the same spots for a lot of the time and my lack of fishing before Christmas was another good excuse. I have however been pleased with my ongoing use of barbless single hooks and can confirm that I have not had to engage any long nosed pliers or forceps to unhook the pike - as they were all hooked in the corner of the mouth (scissors). Often the hook has been visible from the outside - allowing it to be easily removed - see picture:

Talking of flooding on the rivers and strong currents that inevitably



Pike hooked in the corner of mouth on barbless single hook



Should all riverside bushes and trees be removed - Bob believes not

result from this, I was asked the other day if I thought that this situation, which has been extremely widespread this year, would drastically affect the location of fish populations, when the waters have receded? Well, this cannot be ruled out, but my experiences over many years tends to suggest that, with the exception of fry and small fish, which can end up a long way downstream, fish populations remain largely in the same areas as they where. Captures of identifiable individual fish show this. I suppose that if this was not the case then everything would end up in the lower reaches and I don't think that there has ever been any real evidence of this.

This year has seen some of the most widespread and severe flooding on record with some areas such as the Wye and Severn recording the highest water levels ever. The experts on climate change predict that these sort of conditions are going to occur more frequently. This should

be a major concern for us all - particularly naturalists, environmental groups and anglers. Current thinking on flood prevention by scientists suggests that we should be trying to hold water back on the land upstream, where possible, to ease the risk of flooding. This is in stark contrast to the previously held views that centered around removing all obstacles to land drainage and trying to fast track all water down to the sea ASAP! This is something that I always felt was a huge mistake - particularly as it was used to justify the complete destruction of riverside habitat on a regular basis and the ruination of many river fisheries in the process -as we all know.

I wont say that I will be glad to see the back of this Winter and my piking efforts, but I am now looking forward to getting my feeder and float rods on the go again and tackling some tench, bream and carp etc. In fact I am having my first session later this week."



Floats and feeders - out again shortly

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THE GOLDEN YEARS OF FISHING by Bob Rolph

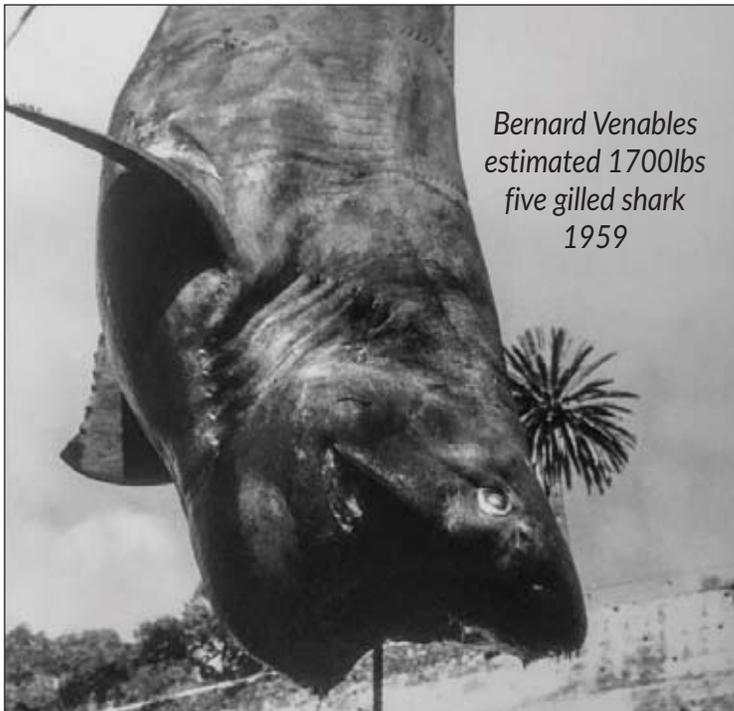
In the footsteps of the Big Game fishing legends!

☞ Each winter around January time, my wife and I go on a long sea cruise. We have done so now for over twenty years, hence my absence from the river bank in recent times! I come from a family of naval tradition, as my Dad was an officer on the cruiser 'Sheffield' during the Second World War. He was only R.N.V.R., but saw active service in the Atlantic and on the Arctic Convoy routes in Russian waters during 1944. Gun turrets laden with ice feature highly in his war time photo albums, and his naval pass opened great opportunities to visit naval guard ships at regattas in Fowey and Falmouth during our long summer holidays in the early 1950s. I was born on his return from service in India in Dec 1945, he left Bombay in March of that year, according to his naval diary!! I was premature, or so my Mother told me!!

This all led me to become very keen on boats and the sea, even though I became a coarse and trout angler. I was never affected by sea sickness, though Rutland and Bewl Waters in a force 8 wind can be pretty hair raising at times. I've been sick once on Bewl, but never at sea, even though I've been round Cape Horn in a force 12 storm.!

I have become quite knowledgeable on WW2 Naval warfare, and just love reading all about life on board the brigs in Nelson's time of 1775-1805, and during the battle of Trafalgar. I have visited all four of Nelson's Naval Dockyards in Antigua, Bermuda, Portsmouth and Chatham, near me in Kent. Great places of historic interest, all now restored and full of tourists!

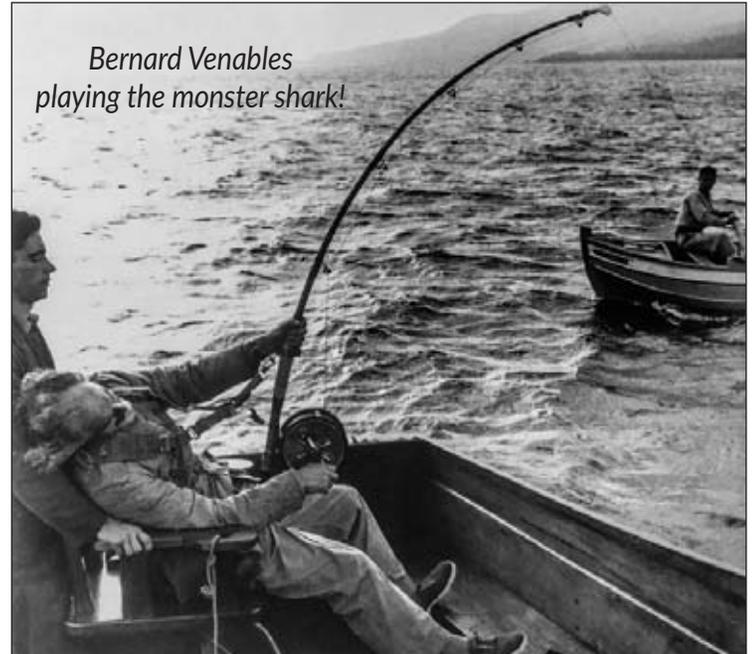
Our travels earlier this year took us to three great former Big Game fishing ports, where the experts of old did battle with giant black marlin, sailfish and shark. I've only caught small blue shark off Cornwall, but Madeira, Key West Florida and Bermuda were on the itinerary of our small cruise liner, 'The Spirit of Discovery', which at 56,000 tonnes is actually far larger than any ship my Father ever served on during the war! Light cruisers averaged only about 10,000 tonnes, but our ship, classed as small these days, was 56,000 tonnes. When you consider that the Titanic was 'only' 44,000 tonnes, and that the new breed of huge cruise ships of today can be as much as 225,000 tonnes and carry up to 6000 passengers and 1300 crew! We moored up next to the 'Harmony of the Seas', in St. Martin, and it dwarfed our little ship five times over!



*Bernard Venables
estimated 1700lbs
five gilled shark
1959*

Anyhow, Madeira was our first port of call, a delightful port and town called Funchal, which once housed a large fleet of charter deep sea fishing boats, and attracted such famous anglers as Bernard Venables and Trevor Housby to this Portuguese fishing mecca. We sailed in past the very spot off the old whaling station near a town called Machico, where in 1959 B.V. caught a shark so big it had front page news in the old Angling Times newspaper. I remember it well, the fish weighed 1500 lbs and was a record for the area at the time. Quite what species of shark it was, I do not recall, obviously not a blue, mako or porbeagle, and Great Whites do not venture this far North, YET!

Only two charter boats now operate out of Funchal the 'Our Mary' and 'Dreamcatcher', and any big game fish caught now is strictly catch and release. My old mate, the late Trevor Housby from Sway, Hampshire, tried to emulate these catches in the 1970s and 80s from here and the Azores, but such fishing has drastically declined in recent years and is now rather frowned upon. Certainly there is now no sign of the weighing gantry where huge dead trophy fish were strung up for photos with their captors. Funchal Harbour, which once was home to over 60 charter boats when I first visited twenty years ago, has



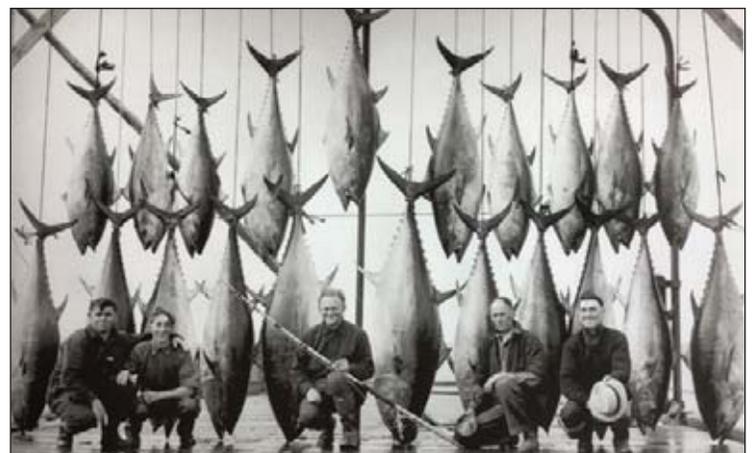
*Bernard Venables
playing the monster shark!*

now no major fishing fleet of note, and just houses up to four visiting cruise ships each day, discharging their cargoes of up to 10,000 passengers on to a new purpose built Cruise Terminal built on the old harbour wall!

We next crossed the Atlantic in six days to visit several Caribbean islands that were new to me, finally ending up at Key West, Florida, a wonderful place at the foot of N. America, and the start of Highway 1 which runs up the Florida Keys right up the East coast to Maine. John Rawle from Bradwell in Essex, that great former charter boat skipper and big game angler had recalled to me his days operating out of Key Largo for six months of the year, and then out of Bradwell for the other 6 months. He's retired now, but that didn't stop him doing a cruise like mine two years ago, where we met and talked about his big fish experiences in the bars aboard the P&O Aurora last February en route around South America and Chile.

Key West was my sort of town, small, compact and safe with great bars, restaurants, shops and fishing. We were only here for the day, so fishing was out of the question, and it poured with rain all day, but this didn't stop our planned visit to Ernest Hemingway's house, off Duval St. in mid town. He bought it in the 1930s at the height of his fame as a writer and big game angler. Quite how he had time to fish, box, and write, I don't know, as he got through five wives during his short lifetime!

The house is full of Hemingway artefacts from his tenure between 1931 and 1939, with many photos of his huge fish captures of marlin, sailfish and tuna. Born in 1899 in Illinois USA, he lived much of his life in Cuba, but became very



Just an average day in the 1930s



Hemingway and tuna

ill during the mid 1950s and died by his own hand at the age of 62 in 1961. His most famous book 'The Old Man and the Sea' was made into a film in 1958 with Spencer Tracy as the old fisherman and B.V. reviewed it in the Angling papers at the time, saying that it was the film and book that every angler should see and read. The old Cuban man it was based on died long ago, but his protege, a young Filipe Pazos, passed away only fourteen years ago at the age of 89. Many of the rich and famous of the 1930s visited this house during the nine years that Hemingway lived there, and the huge swimming pool and separate writing pavilion still stand testimony to the great days he spent there. His love of cats is still most evident at the

house and garden with still 65 cats there wandering all over the place, all descendants of his original Polydactyl, six clawed moggies, roaming the rooms to the present day, lying on the beds, his desk and in the extensive grounds. The blue and black marlin that he caught from his boat Pelar were trophy fish, and such wanton killing would not be popular today. Little evidence is recorded of the exact weights of any of these fish plastering the walls, but they are all obviously in the 200- 500 lb region. His tackle, rods and hooks were there for all to see, and it all had quite an effect on me.



Descendants of Hemingway's Polydactyl moggies asleep on his bed

Key West is a magical place which attracts all manner of colourful characters that perform in Mallory Square down by the Quay side. Performing cats, high wire artists with knives and flames, trick cyclists and all manner of eccentrics, not to mention the deep sea game fishermen! Colourful chickens roam the streets at

will and pop in and out of the many bars and restaurants and the charter boat harbour has to be seen to be believed. Other big game anglers not to be forgotten that fished from here were of course Zane Grey and Peter Brenchley. Zane Grey fished in the 1930s mainly in NZ and Tahiti, he had mako shark to 580lbs. A 500 lb mako was caught off Looe in Cornwall by a lady angler called Joyce Yallop from Norfolk in 1971, but sailfish in tropical waters rarely reached above 200 lbs and Blue Marlin 1000 lbs. Tiger Sharks are recorded at 1780 lbs, so Ian Howcroft's estimated fish off Exmouth, W. Australia 35 years ago of



Hemingway's lounge at Key West

around 1200 lbs, really was a near record for the area. However, The Great White can reach 3500 lbs and swallow a man whole, as they have done on many an occasion!

Cape Canaveral beckoned next as we passed by the massive rocket hangers, and viewed the space shuttle and Saturn 5 moon rockets at close range. Quite the most amazing place I have ever been to, we missed a launch by 4 days, but it brought back memories of 50 years ago when Dad and I sat up all night that day in July 1969!

Leaving Florida behind, we sailed towards Norfolk, Virginia, the home of the American 2nd fleet covering the Atlantic. On entering the port, ten times the size of Portsmouth, we passed close by six of the world's largest aircraft carriers lying at anchor in their docks. Ships so vast and powerful that they can house 80 strike aircraft on their decks. San Diego on the Pacific coast and Naples in Italy also house similar fleets. All just waiting for the call from Mr Trump, no doubt!

We moored next to the old battleship Wisconsin, with its twelve 16 inch guns and a tour of the Second World War ship, which last saw service during the Gulf War, was hastily arranged. My Father would have been so interested as I toured the inner sanctums of the wardrooms, powder stores and kitchens. I have now spent more days at sea than he ever did during the war, but not under fire and in far greater comfort.

Great evidence of fossil fuels were seen in the docks at Norfolk, Virginia, with thousands of rail trucks of coal awaiting loading onto ships in the docks. Coal was piled high on the vast areas around the port, no wonder Donald Trump denies that global warming exists, and that he won't stop coal mining! Now I've seen it for myself and the evidence of the plastic scourge on remote Pacific island beaches. Large schools of dolphin and flying fish no longer shadow the ship as they once did 25 years ago when we did our first cruising, and there really is a serious decline in wildlife and bird life in mid Atlantic. It's not so bad in the Pacific and up the colder west coast of North and South America, where whale and dolphin sightings are still quite prevalent.

Bermuda was our next stop, moored up in Nelson's Dockyard, completely renovated and adorned with shops and restaurants, a far cry from his day of 200 years ago, but the old fort could be seen with its thick harbour walls built in Napoleonic Times! There is also a Nelson's dockyard in Antigua, a reminder of the times in 1800 when we still had a viable fighting Navy. Great expensive charter fishing boats graced the inner harbours, where a days fishing, mainly trolling for barracuda and small blue finned tuna, costs a fortune, way out of my league! I thought a day on Bewl was expensive enough, but here it is ridiculous money and you release the fish now without even getting it properly on board for weighing and a photo!



Big Game boats in harbour

I pulled a muscle in my back 45 years ago, fishing for blue shark off Fowey in Cornwall, and it's never been the same since, I couldn't do it now at 74 anyway, much to my regret. Fishing for

bonefish is popular here in the many bays and inlets around St. George's and St. David's. The shallow coral waters are so clear and pure harbour with fish up to about 5 lbs which can be caught on fly and spinner. My attempts for an hour or so were unsuccessful, but an old friend of mine from Bewl, Norman Wells an ex trout fly fisherman of excellence, came out to the Bahamas 25 years ago to set up a Bonefishing School. I wonder how he got on and whether it all went to plan? By all accounts, the bonefish is the hardest fighting fish you are ever likely to encounter on the fly or lure! I expect Andy Lush has done it, may even have been with Norman, as he would have known him well from the old great days at Bewl! Although I have trolled for barracuda and other small game fish in the Bahamas, fly fishing for bonefish is the ultimate fishing experience, wading out among the coral reefs and using popping plugs just under the surface. The Bonefish do go to double figures, and the record is a massive 19 lbs, but 2- 5 lb fish are the norm. The nearest we have is the mullet and we all know how difficult they are to catch!

Everywhere in the world I visit that has deep sea charter boats to view and I look on longingly, wishing I was still young. I've seen the marlin and sailfish boats in Mauritius, Reunion Island and Bimini, but a visit to the harbour side bars and restaurants and a view of the trophy fish over the bars is as far as I will get, except in my dreams! One day 'call ins' to all these places is not conducive to a deep sea fishing trip, unfortunately!

Carp and tench fishing on my secluded " Mr Crabtree" style lakes near home gives me as much pleasure these days as anything I have witnessed on my extensive world travels, even if the size of fish leaves much to be desired!"

Bob Rolph



Brick Farm Lakes Herstmonceux, East Sussex

"The last month at Brick Farm Lakes, much like everywhere else, has been extremely wet and windy. Despite the nasty weather, we have been busy with maintenance and some fantastic fish have been caught including several 6lb+.

Phil, Graham and two friends worked tirelessly getting all the stands built and in place on Spring Lake – they got all 16 stands built and in place in just 2 days! Two of the stands have been built in keeping with the suggested specifications of the British Disabled Angling Association so we hope that these provide additional space for our less mobile anglers to be able to enjoy the beautiful new lake. We will soon be creating a parking area close to Spring Lake so those benefiting from these accessible stands won't have too far to go. We are now regularly stocking Spring Lake and it has been fishing really well. Plans are underway for Ladies Day, which we are hosting on 26 April 2020, so ladies get in quick if you fancy getting together with other females who enjoy fly fishing. We will be fishing in the morning followed by "Ladies only afternoon tea" from 1pm with a selection of homemade sandwiches, quiches, scones and cakes! Please pre-book asap (by popping in or giving us a call) as numbers are limited to a maximum of 16. Successful flies as always include damsels and hares ears, but again buzzers have been catching really well so are always worth a try."



Brian Wood 6lb 4oz

Tight Lines, The Axells



Many different patterns of flies have been successful, but weighted buzzers have seen the most success fished deep with a fairly fast retrieve. Still seeing fish taken on the top which is not only exciting, but also surprising. We are thinking of making one of our lakes a specimen lake and we would like any feedback on this, good or bad, your thoughts are important to us!

Tight Lines, Nick & Ally



Mike Shine 13lb inc 6lb 8oz



Matt Robins PB 5lb 10oz

Chalk Springs Arundel, West Sussex

Fishing this month has been good when the weather has permitted! It has been so wet and windy putting a lot of anglers off, but when weather has permitted, they have done really well and the fish that are being caught are up to and over 9lb. We have had several browns, blues and rainbows caught, all putting up good exiting action. Storm Ciara came and went leaving its trail of branches in the lakes, but thankfully, no real damage and we are now preparing for storm Dennis. Sadly, not many anglers realise that here at Chalk Springs we don't suffer too much from winds as we are in the valley protected on both sides. Here are some of the fish that have been caught.



CHALK SPRINGS

Trout Fishery 01903 883742

NEW OWNER NICK CHRISTIAN WELCOMES YOU TO ONE OF THE UK'S TOP TROUT WATERS!

We are busy making lots of great improvements to our beautiful fishery and can now offer:

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- Improved fish stocks with larger fish being introduced
- New website and Facebook page to keep you updated
- Fish of the Week awards
- Great value for money ticket prices
- Corporate Day bookings welcome
- Ample car parking
- Beautiful, tranquil environment for you to relax and enjoy



Chalk Springs Trout Fishery Park Bottom Arundel West Sussex BN18 0AA

Tenterden Trout Waters Tenterden, Kent

Winter fishing has continued to be good throughout February and now we are into March and all the bulbs are up which signifies Spring and naturally lifts everyone's spirits. We continue to stock varying weights of trout and they continue to put up a good fight and our anglers have been enjoying some good sport. Popular patterns: Montana & Cats Whisker.

We have an exciting event unfolding at our Fishery on the 14 June 2020.

Our dear friend, Charles Jardine, many of you will know of him as a multi-disciplined Fly Fisherman who has represented his country in this Sport and through reading his articles and books. Charles will be holding a Skill Set Day which will start at 10am and finish at 5pm. We are fund raising together for Fishing for Schools which is an initiative that Charles started some 12 years ago, to help young people get into angling and back into education. It is now a national operation under the Countryside Alliance Foundation and enjoys Charitable status. The day will include • Fly casting demos and hands on help • Fly tying demo – specific to Still Water and Tenterden (Charles was fishing at Tenterden from the age of 18 and I learned a lot from him at a young age just watching him cast for miles.) • Selecting the right gear for the sport • Knots, leaders, lines etc • Some tactical demonstrations • Entomology and matching the fly to the insect or conditions • Half day permit with one fish to use on the day and practise your skillset • Raffle prizes • Lunch: Bring a picnic and enjoy our beautiful Wealden Countryside • Refreshments will be free in our new Fishing Lodge with WC/Kitchen • All assistants on the day will be fully qualified • **Limited places so therefore ample opportunity for one to one tuition at a cost of just £75!** Please contact me, Gaynor Stokes, by email gaynor@coombe-farm.com or ring 01580 763201 to book a place or to request further information.



Charles will then return to our Fishery on the 15 July 2020 to host the Fishing for Schools Day. We are very keen to support all young people into this Sport and we look forward to working with Charles and the Charity to make these two very memorable days for everyone who participates.

Our Lakeside Fishing Lodge is being well used as a cosy, social Hub this Winter for our anglers when the weather closes in and they need to warm up with a complimentary tea/coffee. WC facilities are provided. It's also a great place to share with family and friends. The Lodge is available to hire for a private function - please contact us for further details. We have just re-launched our website for the start of 2020 and we hope you enjoy using the new site – we have worked hard to make it user friendly and welcome your feedback. For an up-to-date Fishing Report just Click on this Heading on our Home page. www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk We have an Aerial Tour on our Home Page so you can view our picturesque Wealden setting. Please follow us on Instagram and visit our Gallery.

It is always good to try new skills in life so if you are looking to try out a new Sport and you are seeking for some Fishing Tuition then click on the Tuition Page of our website and book a lesson with Richard Stokes or email richard@coombe-farm.com and he will get you started properly in your first lesson.

We also offer Gift Vouchers for that special present please call Gaynor on 01580 763201 or email gaynor@coombe-farm.com to make your purchase.

The Farm/Fishery is now available as a Wedding Venue whilst the Fishery is closed in the Summer and we are taking bookings for 2020/21/22 and we are very busy with enquiries and bookings. Click on 'Wedding Venue' for further info on our website.

We look forward to welcoming you to our friendly Fishery in the beautiful Weald of Kent.

Tight Lines – Gaynor, Richard & Audrey

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 We aim to provide an excellent day's sport in beautiful Wealden Countryside.
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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.

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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.

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For details contact Andy Lush on 01892 528677



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

- Annual membership £285 (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

Please quote CH20P when

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r.nathan@btinternet.com

www.cinder-hill-trout.uk



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 with food options available

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Tel: 01323 832615

www.brickfarmlakes.co.uk

The Fishing Lodge
 Brick Farm
 Herstmonceux
 East Sussex
 BN27 4RS

Rutland: my winter wonderland

"Needing a change of scenery, I travelled to Rutland for a two day trip, my intended boat partner cried off at the last minute so I hurriedly contacted a few friends to see if anyone could join me at short notice. Geoff Makin can always be relied on and he was happy to jump in the boat for the second day, but on day one I would have to fish solo.



Andy's never happier than when he's jigging for Zander

I motored out of the harbour turned right heading passed the iconic Normanton Church when suddenly my echo sounder's screen went blank! Confused, I immediately checked the 'power leads' and only then did I notice the absence of the transducer cable! The transducer had popped off the gunnel and sunk into oblivion! The transducer is the 'brains' of the echo sounder, sending and receiving the signals that are then shown "on screen". Oh no, what was I going to do now? I hadn't fished Rutland for several weeks so I hardly had my "finger on the pulse". Not knowing where the fish were and with no echo sounder to guide me, I headed for some deep water features I know near the main tower. Having fished Rutland frequently for a number of years, I know it very well and now I was going to be tested to the limit. If I was going to catch with this handicap, I would have to pay a lot of attention to where I was fishing, and without the aid of the sounder to tell me the depth and drift speed, I would have to watch my line angle to make sure my lure was closely following the bottom contours. The first few drifts I was worried I'd blown my chances when suddenly it happened, "fish on", what a relief. By taking notice of land marks and buoys in the reservoir, I was able to make measured drifts, each one close to the previous one. I gradually began to put a few fish in the boat which was very pleasing. Fishing in this basic manner was totally absorbing, without distractions I calmed down and eventually felt content with my effort.

Suddenly out of nowhere the wind picked up, this wasn't forecast. I added a 10g "screw in" weight to my soft plastic lure that was already mounted on a 50g jig head. The wind picked up still further, another 10g weight was added making 70g! This was getting silly, but the fish didn't mind so what the heck! Then it hit me, a sudden squall sent the boat on a collision course with the dam unless I did something quickly, I was in real danger. No time to think, I was at the bottom end of the wind by now and needed to act quickly, so using all my boating experience, I steered the boat cautiously towards shelter. Being alone in a boat means the bow rides high so water breaks over the front and is blown inboard. I couldn't head directly towards safety at this point so I headed gingerly, at half throttle, across the waves at about 45 degrees to avoid crashing through the "white horses" that were now bearing down on me. I was taking on some water as spray was blown inboard, but I was slowly heading away from the immediate danger of the dam. The only problem now was I was heading out into much deeper water, in excess of 90ft!

Well eventually I picked up a little shelter from a headland and was able to reach safety and some welcome calm water where I took stock of my situation. I was wet and cold but safe, what to do next? A warming cup of tea and it was time to decide, should I go in and get another set of waterproofs or stay out and suffer? If I went in maybe they wouldn't let me out again? I headed in got another jacket and a weather update. The wind was set to drop back to 14mph; it had hit 33mph at one point well over the safety limit of 17mph for a single man boat! Having caught nine zander and a perch so far, I wasn't keen to stop as the fish were "having it". I headed back to my successful fishing ground and immediately started catching again, bonus. It was worth it as I caught another five zander. What a day! I was literally blown away with my success, roll on tomorrow, all I needed now was to dry out!

Geoff was eager to hit the water the next morning after hearing of my success. I was "captain" steering the boat, so when I told Geoff about my transducer mishap he quickly set up his sounder so I could see the screen. I headed for the previous days productive area. Although Geoff's sounder didn't have my features marked on it, I knew where they were. Our first drift took us roughly through the "hot spot"; I just needed to access the

winds direction to make sure we ended up in the right place. Starting each subsequent drift from a slightly different position meant we worked the area thoroughly. I started with a soft plastic "pin tailed" lure that had no perceivable action. I know this sounds counter intuitive, but when zander fishing "less is often more", and so it proved as I accumulated a good number of fish. As it was Geoff's first trip this Winter he wanted to try out some new baits. This distraction meant he wasn't as focused and it showed in his results. We were drifting at around 0.6mph which is a perfect speed in my opinion. The bottom contours varied considerably which required us to overweight our lures to stay as vertical as possible. Staying vertical is essential, it allowed us to alter the depth of our lures each time the depth changed, which sees our lures tripping over the bottom rather than dragging slightly over depth. This helps us avoid snagging the zebra mussel encrusted structures that attract the zander and perch to this area.



Geoff Makin defiantly has "Zander Fever"

By early afternoon something happened that changed the zander's feeding behaviour. I'm not sure what it was, but suddenly I lost four fish "on the bounce" in as many minutes. I changed tactics immediately and put on a heavy "ice jig", these lures have an uncanny knack of triggering bites from inactive fish and they are something I've a lot of confidence in. This turned out to be a good move as I started hooking fish again and they were "proper ones" too. Geoff took up my offer of using one of my heavy 42g Ice jigs and he quickly joined in the action too.

We were both catching a better stamp of fish now with several over 7lbs. Suddenly as I snap jigged my lure off the bottom, I met with something very solid that wasn't the bottom! It's uncanny how often the bigger zander pin your lure to the bottom. That's why it's essential to sharply snap your lure off the bottom, each and every time; otherwise you miss the opportunity of hooking these bony mouthed beasts. As I drew my fish up through the water, I could feel a lot of resistance as well as its heavy weight, accompanied by the reassuring "zander head shake". I was eager and nervous to see my prize. Geoff was on hand to expertly net and my first Rutland double! At 10lb 4oz, I had at last broken the ten pound barrier that had eluded me for so long. I'd wondered if I would ever achieve this milestone having caught so many Rutland Zander over the years.



Andy's first Rutland double!

Return visit

As you can imagine, I was eager to return before the season ended. Geoff Makin joined me again, beware "zander fever is infectious"! What a change in the weather, it was flat calm with no perceivable drift to help us search the water. We both caught on our first drop down, but then struggled to get any further takes! On my sounder, I saw a fish 20ft off the bottom so decided to slowly reel my lure up through the water to intercept it. As I did so, I got an unexpected take before reaching my target, a bonus zander put a smile on my face. After this short lived success, we visited all our usual haunts without any further success.

The day was becoming very frustrating indeed; we saw plenty of small baitfish around the features, but couldn't buy a take, either there were no predators around or more likely, they were completely off the feed! Finally, I positioned the boat near the "pipe" in the North Arm, another one of the "hot spots". While Geoff continued zander fishing, I decided to change tactics completely and started casting large "grub tailed" lures for pike. I also decided to rest my zander rod over the gunnels with my lure hanging just off the bottom. This technique is known as fishing a "dead rod". After dozens of fishless casts with my pike lure, I finally got a take "on the drop" which turned out to be an ambitious zander that had taken my lure way off the bottom. A short while later, I caught another, maybe we were fishing beneath the zander? As this thought went through my mind, my "dead rod" jumped off its perch as a zander nailed my lure that was suspended inches off the bottom! A little later, while I'm still casting lures for pike, I noticed the tip of my "dead rod" is under a lot of tension, it's as if it's dragging bottom which I'm sure it's not. As I picked up the rod to check it, I felt the satisfying nod of another zander, "fish on". So our day finished with a handful of fish each, but I have to admit we never really got it dialled in today.



Zander will take big lures too!

For my second day, I was joined by Alex Mason, a customer who has become a good friend. I had spent many hours chatting about zander and how to catch them with Alex and now we were going to put it all into action. Alex's father was also fishing with a young guy, Ollie Miles who was on his first zander trip. We had a reasonable breeze that as I've mentioned previously, helps a lot. We started drifting in 70ft of water before sliding over a steep drop off which saw our lures

drop into 80-90ft. Alex was first into action with a good zander of 6lbs on a shad. I had another of those fish that "pinned" my lure to the bottom, and it felt B-I-G! At first it wouldn't come off the bottom and as I applied more pressure, my rod took on a satisfying bend and throbbled as the fish held station for what seemed like an eternity before begrudgingly allowing me to bring it to the surface. This felt very heavy indeed and as it kited off to one side, as it neared the surface, I suspected that it wasn't hooked squarely in the mouth, and this proved to be the case as a very solid zander wrapped itself in one of the drogue ropes. Alex skilfully retrieved the drogue and my fish, for which I was very grateful. The hook was in its face just outside the mouth, yet another good fish around 6lbs. After such a promising start, we struggled to back it up with any more fish. To add to our frustration, Alex received a call from his father, who reported that his young guest, Ollie, had caught five zander already this morning! A short while later Alex gets another call telling him Ollie has landed a huge zander of 11lb 8oz, you can't beat beginners luck!



OLLIE MILES JAN 2020

"Better to be lucky than good" Ollie Miles with his stunning 11lb 8oz Zander

After that, we focused on several deep water marks between the tower and the dam. We started catching a few small zeds which at least showed that we were back on track and I could relax again. I never tire of catching zander, whatever their size; the takes make me jump with excitement every time. Encouraged by the good number of big zander Rutland had been producing had the effect of concentrating our minds; the next bite could be a personal best! Alex decided to persevere with the "ice jig" having only caught an eel on one up until now. I was still on the "pin tai" bait; it never pays to both fish exactly the same lures unless the fish tell you otherwise. As we entered the last hour, Alex finally broke his duck catching three small zander on the "ice jig". Now he knew he could make them work, his confidence was sky high, and as I always say "confidence is king", and that's how my final trip to Rutland ended.

Tight lines. Andy Lush

Andy offers a guiding service for those who want to learn more about "Lure Fishing" & "Fly Fishing". To book email info@thefriendlyfisherman.co.uk with your contact phone number and Andy will return your call.

The Hastings Fly Fishers' Club Ltd



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Powdermill is considered to be the most beautiful water in the South East with the 56 acre Reservoir regularly stocked throughout the season with high quality Rainbow Trout.

Powdermill has an excellent Mayfly hatch throughout April, May and June, with fishing extended at the end of the season to include stocking of larger trout. Bank or boat fishing available.

Day and evening visitors welcome and limited season ticket membership also available on application

Fishing will start from 8am every day.

Day tickets - 6 fish limit, evening tickets - 4 fish limit.

Prices for 2020: February, March - 6 fish ticket	£35.00
April, May and June	£40.00
July - end of season	£35.00

Evening Tickets - from 2pm

February and March	£25.00
April, May, June	£30.00
July - end of season	£25.00

Powdermill (Great Sanders) Reservoir
Reservoir Lane, Sedlescombe, East Sussex, TN33 0PJ

Tel: 01424 870498 (Bailliff 9:30 to 10:30 am)

www.hastingsflyfishers.co.uk

Email: mail@hastingsflyfishers.co.uk



Teise Anglers and Conservation Society

**River trout and grayling fishing
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Teise Anglers and Conservation Society controls more than 7 miles of the River Teise in the beautiful Kent countryside of the Weald near Goudhurst.

We also have a well-stocked reservoir at Marden Beech.



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

www.teiseanglers.org.uk

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

Email:

teisesecretary@gmail.com

Telephone: 07960 518738



Medway and Kent Sea Fishing Group



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

The recent storms, Ciara and Dennis, have done little to help anglers! Just when the conditions were settling and the water was clearing, the plaice began to appear along the South Coast in good numbers. The current sea temperatures, at the time of writing, are quite interesting. Littlehampton 9 degrees, Brighton 10 degrees, Folkestone 11 degrees, Ramsgate 8 degrees, Whitstable 9 degrees. The differences are as much as three degrees in a relatively small area. We can but hope that conditions settle down as we enter the first month of Spring and the fishing improves with the weather. Hopefully, it won't be too long before we see the first of the smoothounds move in and, the crabs begin to moult. Fingers crossed!

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL TACKLE SHOP!

Thames report courtesy of Wayne May:

"Thames charters are still finding some nice fish in the deeper parts of the estuary, there are still a few nice size whiting coming up along with double figure rays and dabs on a regular basis. The last week, before writing, has been poor, due to adverse weather conditions, preventing many boats from getting to their usual marks. Gravesend is still producing small whiting and a few flounders, caught on ragworm baits and lugworm works really well for the whiting. Favoured spots are the Ship and Lobster and behind Halfords at the moment. Further along Greenhithe and Erith have seen a decline in catches, a few small eels reported at Morrison's pier and flounder and pin whiting from Greenhithe to Swanscombe peninsula. Fishing at these marks normally slows this time of year, combined with the adverse weather conditions, March will soon be upon us, which will also bring the Spring and Summer species."

NJ Tackle at Gravesend can supply all your tackle and bait requirements. Call 01474 353998.



Sheppey report courtesy of Sheppey Angling

"Plenty of thornbacks being caught to fish baits around the island. Dabs, flounders, school bass showing with plenty of whiting, especially after dark. Might be worth noting that when it is blowing hard from the South West making other venues totally unfishable, like it has been, the island is still very fishable! You can find comfortable spots with the wind off your back and catch fish."

For top tackle, bait and advice call Sheppey Angling on 01795 661089.



Thanet report courtesy of Fishermans Corner:

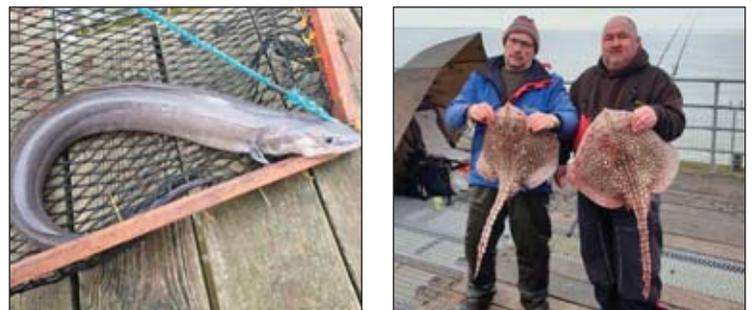
"Ramsgate East pier has remained fairly consistent through day and night with flatfish, pouting, dogfish and whiting. There has even been a report of a thornback ray caught on a chunk of whiting !! Worm baits working well for the flounders and dabs and squid, mackerel and sandeels for the dogs." **For any advice, bait or tackle visit Fisherman's Corner, a short walk from the pier 01843 582174.**



Deal report courtesy of Channel Angling Deal:

"This time of year can be a bit on the lean side, but this year we have been blessed with the early arrival of the thornbacks, which have been showing in numbers, especially on Deal pier with anglers catching up to 10 per session with. Paul Davies has notched up over 50 rays in 5 trips with one ray a monster of over 16 lb! On the beach, there are rays at the Sandwich end with dogfish still showing along with dabs and pouting. The pin whiting are thinning out, I'm pleased to say! So get your rods out, get your fish baits on and catch some fish! Don't be surprised if you come across a conger eel! Good luck to you all, Fred."

Call Channel Angling on 01304 373104 for all your bait and tackle requirements.



Hythe area report courtesy of Stevie Bates

With Flat calm seas one day and 3 to 4meter swells crashing on to the beach the next, the fishing in the Hythe and surrounding area has been challenging for the pleasure Angler. The recent shift in the Jet stream has seen some very extreme wet and windy low-pressure fronts blowing in from the West but has also given us some breaks where we have had some warm high pressure and flat calm seas which has produced a few surprise fish for a few lucky Anglers.

The usual suspects are still around in abundance, you can expect to catch Whiting, Dogfish, dabs and pouting on most tides' day or night, with evening tides producing the better fish. You can still expect to catch Thornback Rays on a calmer tide. From what I hear, A lite steady SW breeze 1-2 hours after High water fishing pulley dropper or pulley pannel rigs baited with highly scented baits like Squid Bluey or Sandeel will increase your chances picking up a Ray or two.

There have been two reports of very early Smooth hounds caught on evening tides. I have never heard of them being caught this early in the year, especially from Hythe so very well done to the lucky Anglers. This does show us how the weather and global warming is really changing our fishing though and the types of fish we see from season to season.

Looking at Long Range weather forecasts, it is still a little unsettled but we are fast approaching the time of year when we should see Plaice starting to show along the parade. Like many, I am already preparing for when the sea settles and the water clears to try for an early plaice.

Your local tackle shop for bait and tackle is Dens Tackle 01303 267053. Good Luck and Tight Lines.



Eastbourne area report courtesy of Tony's Tackle

"This month has been much more productive from the shore although there has been a massive shortage of black lug, even on the long tides. It is the worst I have witnessed in 40 years! There are hopes of some next week on the longer tides, meanwhile ragworm continue to land a few fish with the shortage. Some anglers are turning to bluey, mackerel and squid. This method with pebble rigs has thrown up some larger fish including small congers and loads of dogfish after dark. Joe Plumstead landed five in a 3 hour Eastbourne Nomads match last week on mackerel. Dan Wood was second with four. Sticking to the match scene for a moment, THE TONY'S TACKLE BIG ONE £1000 was won by

ROBERT TUCK from Suffolk. He amassed a huge 394 pts, equivalent to 8 lb 12 oz in weight, in the catch and release classic last week. Anglers from all over the country competed with 96 fishing the match. We have reformulated the match for next year to 1st £500, 2nd £300 and 3rd £200. This distributes the money a bit fairer. Rob landed around 18 fish, whiting, dabs and sealed the match with an amazing double shot of bass on the last cast with fish of 2 and a half pound and one of around 1lb plus.

The match was a great success for the Eastbourne angling club and Eastbourne town! We hope to see you all next year! This week has seen amazing short tides which normally makes things quiet, but it has produced large plaice from Seaford and Langney Point on the flat seas along with whiting to 2lbs and dogfish at night and few bass. Out of nowhere a huge influx of thornback rays appeared from the shore all along Eastbourne beaches. These fish have been landed up to 8 lb in weight. Luke and his father Tim Ripley landed 7 in one night from the Wish Tower area on mackerel and squid baits.



Excalibur winner Rob Tuck receiving the shield and £1000 from Tony Kirrage



Rob Tuck with Excalibur sponsors

COD FOR SHANE EDWARDS!

Top local angler Shane Edwards sent in this photo of a cod!

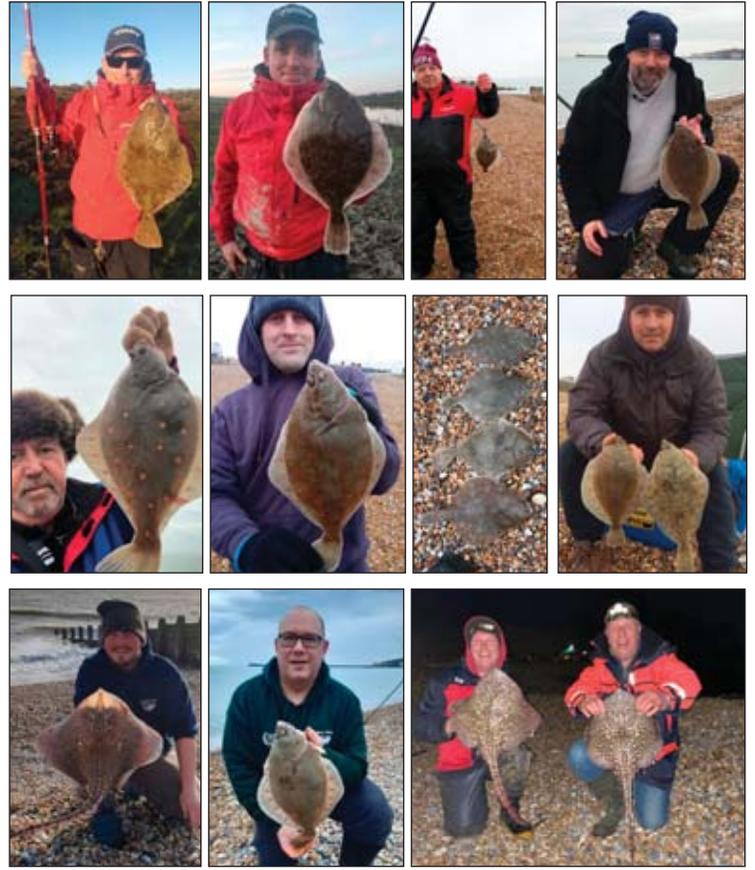
It weighed 7lbs 7ozs, but Shane had to go to Chesil to find his first cod in three years!

Well done Shane, worth the drive!



Joe Plumstead and his brother Oly had five from peg 8 near the car park beach. This has certainly livened up a usually quiet January/February. Norman Message and Bob Edwards caught 18 thornback rays in the boat. Mike Mallone out of the angling club caught some huge pollack from a wreck off Beachy Head with fish up to 14 lb. Panther continues to catch a few cod, rays and bass from around the Eastbourne Light Tower area.

Please send me any reports to Tonystackle@gmail.com or phone the shop on 01323 731388. That is the same number for bait orders." Tight lines, Tony Kirrage.



RICKY IS ALL A GLOWING!

Ricky Graham had a great session at Hythe with fishing buddy Craig Smissen:

"Hi Barry, a report from a session I had recently with Craig Smissen, one of my fishing buddies, at Hythe. We turned up at Hythe at around 3pm and it was fish from the start! We fished a few hours either side of high water and ended up with 12 rays between us, 4 dogs, 3 whiting and a strap conger. Our baits were bluey but on one rod I was using the lumi scent beads and they out fished the rod that didn't have them on. The scent definitely works when the fish are on the feed. We could have stayed and caught loads more but bait was running low and dinner was calling! The biggest rays went 10lb and 9lb. These beads are quite new I think. They are glow in the dark, like moonglow or seaglo beads, but have a flavour incorporated in them. As far as I know there is squid, mackerel and one called cod candy flavours currently available."



KENT BOAT REPORT courtesy of Jason Parrott

"A slight change to my normal report! Some of you know that I go away to Thailand for the month of January and fishing is a big part of mine and my wife Dawn's holiday. This year's Thai report comes from Bungsamran fishing park. It is one of the original big fish parks with fish topping 200 lbs with very tricky fish to be caught! We had our 'ace card', a very good friend John Harvey, who currently holds the record for the biggest carp caught at 232 lb, yes that's correct, 232 lb!

We started our drive at 6am and a couple of hours later we arrived at the fishing park. It had an aura of excitement and John spent all day preparing bait, tackle, rigs and some special potions. Now for me and Dawn and Ian and Kim, we just had the short walk from our bungalow and spent the day just beaming smiles! We watched the fish top and splash and I just wanted to stop and fish, but John just herded us on! I wanted to fish, but no, John, being the professional as ever, wanted all the ground bait prepared how he liked it and the rigs and tackle were laid out like an operating theatre! After that was completed, he set up the mats and landing nets then the rod holders and alarms were tested.

We then got the thumbs up and it was rods in. First fish was a swai around 25 lb and then a siamese from John's dad, again around 25 lb. Ian and I decided to give the mekong a go on a float and feeder set up with bread as hook bait. The bait runner went screaming off and the first mekong, around 55 lbs, only took 20 minutes to land on 6lbs test carp rod. For the next 4 hours, we were pulling in mekong up to 70 lbs regularly. We decided to split the rod between me and Dawn and Ian and Kim. Both the girls lost huge fish, nothing to do with bad fishing, just that the fish, after a 40 minutes fight, went under the staging and snapped the 40k braid. We then had our first siamese of the day! Dawn took the rod and wound in to it as it screamed off, but then the alarm went on my mekong rod and we had a double hook up, a 36 lb siamese and a 74 lb mekong! The fishing slowed down slightly before the alarms went off again. This time, Ian and Kim had a double hook up!



You couldn't make it up, a siamese of 31 lb for Kim and a 68lb mekong for Ian. Then as the time rolled on, the sun went down and we were slowly starting to pack up. John also had a screaming run. He wound down in to it and said 'heavy fish' and after 20 minutes of us all watching in awe of these mekong stripping line, John Harvey's other



rod went off with a strong fast run! Another double hook up! This then presented a problem with two huge fish running and one platform! The two anglers worked together to land these monsters. John Harvey had a siamese of 83 lb and the mekong weighed in at 76 lbs. They were retained in the cage as they were far too big to handle on the platform and to prevent any damage.

What an end to an amazing day! If you would like to see more, John Harvey and Dan Hastings are doing a lot of filming on You Tube, so worth a look if you are thinking about visiting Thailand and need some advice. A big thank you to Alan Turner at Camos Carp Cabin at Ramsgate for supplying the bait."

Tight lines from a very tired Jay.

See you aboard the Lady Ann of Ramsgate very soon!



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



RICHARD KEEPS FINDING THE RAYS!

Richard Smith sent in this report after another short, but successful ray hunt at Hythe: "Hi Barry, I had a short session on Fisherman's Beach at Hythe recently. I was quite surprised to see so many anglers there, but then disappear as the rays turned up! Only two caught, but biggest weighing 8lb 7ozs. Both returned to fight another day."



I am delighted to welcome Andrew Cook to our Sea Informer section of the magazine. Andrew is a Kent angler who enjoys his fishing around various marks in our region. Each month, Andy will give us an insight in to his adventures!

OUT AND ABOUT WITH ANDY by Andrew Cook

"Hello Everyone!

Welcome to my first 'Out and About with Andy' report. I fish many of the venues around our coast which many of you will already know and each month I will tell you about one of my sessions, 'warts and all'!

I am in the Mother-In-Law's good books, well for the next week anyway!

The plan was to go back to Seaford today as there had been an offshore wind all week and reports of 'Spotties' coming out along the Sussex Coast and in any case it couldn't be any worse than an absolute disaster I had there a couple of weeks ago! Malky Grogan had agreed to meet me down there along with Michael Whibley and Ashley Jr Whibley.

I was up at 4:30 am for the ninety or so minutes drive to the coast, taking in the 'sights' of Pease Pottage services for my caffeine intake and food on the way. Today's morsel was a Greggs Cheese Ploughman's Oval, washed down with a bottle of Dr Pepper - better than acceptable!

It was still dark when I got to the Buckle car park but I could see that the water was like glass. There were people unpacking gear in the car park already so that was a good sign. I got my gear out and made my way to the usual spot, about 100 yards west and set up.

I fished two rods as usual, both with two hook green / black beaded flappers loaded with some nice juicy ragworm. Different tactics though, one rod had a 6ozs wired lead to hold it in place, the other had a 4oz ball lead with the aim of letting it move about in the current.



It was getting light and I could see that the water was greenish with a bit of cloud in it, but not much. Both rods went out, but there was nothing for the first few casts. Malky, Michael, and Ashley arrived and set up either side of me and there was now about 30 anglers stretched over a mile of beach.

The flood quickened and I got a half decent tap on the rolling leger rod which resulted in a nice 38cm plaice on the 'stones', happy days! Ten minutes later and the fixed lead rod started nodding. I

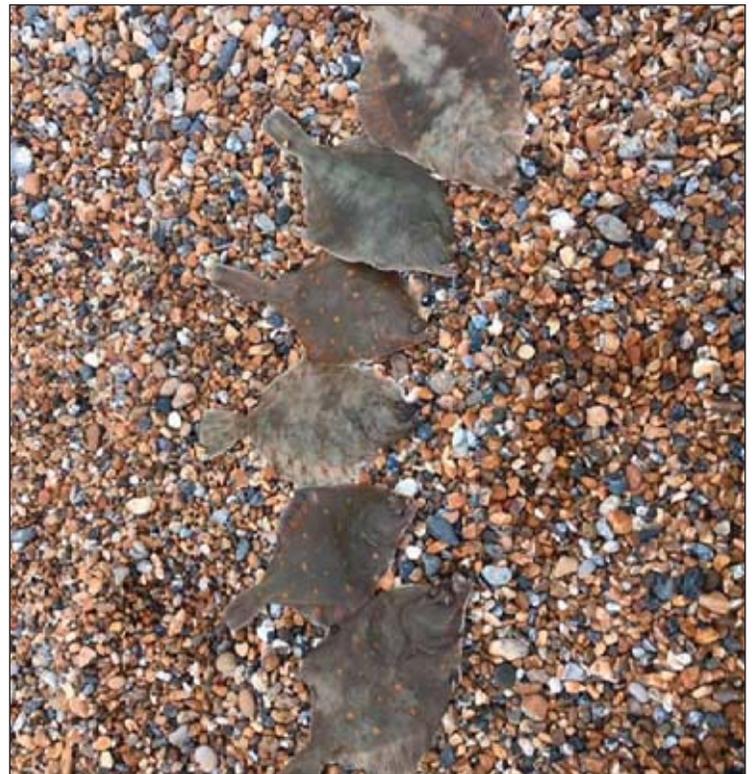


reeled in and it felt nice, even giving a couple of kicks. Boom! 43cms and a new PB! Another two came in the next hour at 36cms and 37cms. Just before HW and it's another 'forty' at 42cms. It then went quiet for about 90 minutes. 1pm and I picked up a sixth and final plaice up at 35cms. It went dead after that fish so at 3pm I called it a day and decided to head home. The journey took nearly three hours due to coming back through Tunbridge Wells in rush hour, I won't be doing that again!!!



A good day made up for the few recent poor outings and it was great to meet up with some other lads for a yarn and a laugh. The rolling leger out-fished the fixed lead 5:1, so it was well worth doing to get the bait moving about.

A big thank you to Michael Whibley who has given me a few tips on setting up the 7HT and offered to put my casting right. Thanks mate, it badly needed it!



Back to my Mother-In-Law! She is made up as she now has a few nice plaice dinners lined up! I'll be back at Seaford over the coming weeks, there's a 'fifty' with my name on it down there."
Tight lines all! Andy Cook

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BROAD MINDED!

Sam offers us a slightly different slant in his journal this month with a report from the Norfolk Broads where he dabbles on the 'dark side' and swaps sea water for fresh!

"A word that seems to have crept into the angling vocabulary that I feel does not belong is the word 'venue'. A venue can be many places, for example, areas where pop concerts or music festivals are held. Areas where people fish are not venues, this word is far too clinical to describe places of such beauty. One of these areas that cannot be described as a 'venue' is the vast and magnificent Norfolk Broads.

If you are used to fishing generously stocked commercial carp pools and fancy the challenge of the wild, then the Norfolk Broads will certainly open that door. To try and sum up the Broads in one short article would not do them justice! What I hope you get from reading this is a push to booking a boating holiday so you can find out for yourselves what the Norfolk Broads can offer the angler.

My introduction to the Broads was back in the early 80s when our Mum took us three kids on a week's holiday to Potter Heigham, on the Northern part of the Norfolk Broads. We stayed in one of the many holiday lets that line the banks of the famous River Thurne. We also had the use of an 18 foot clinker built day boat for excursions and exploring. Even back then, I was mad on fishing, so this place was pure heaven! Most of my fishing was sea angling in my early years and I was quite good at it for a youngster, but I had started fishing local ponds for crucian carp and rudd. Despite my limited abilities, I still managed to catch many small silver fish during my first taste of the Norfolk Broads. This childhood holiday whet my appetite and left me with some wonderful memories.

It wouldn't be until 1994, when I was 21, that I would return to the Broads, this time it was a boating holiday with a group of friends. As it turned out, this would be a boozy holiday that I would rather forget! In 2011, I suggested a Norfolk Broads boating holiday to the Mrs, she was dubious, however, after some gentle persuasion, she agreed. So in late July of that year, the family and I set off from Kent on our journey to Norfolk for their first taste of the Broads. If I had to be honest, this holiday was more of an adventure than a holiday and as this is meant to be an angling article, I shall not bore you with the details! The main thing is that Tracie, my now girlfriend of eleven years, loved the place, so much so that we have had at least one boating break a year there every year since 2012.

We decided five years ago to start saving for our own Broads cruiser. Finally in mid-June 2019, we bought 'Mad Night' (right), name to be changed soon, a 28 foot by 10 foot 10 inch, 1976 Calypso Broads cruiser. Since then and until now, we have spent around 45 days on her



and travelled some 400 miles. This is a long way at 4-5 miles per hour! We keep our boat at Stalham, which is situated at the Northern end of the North Broads on the River Ant. This is a very pretty, if at times narrow, river that runs from Dilham in the North to the River Bure, an ideal base for weekend breaks and a great starting point for a week's holiday. There is some cracking fishing to be had on the river Ant, which means we do not have to travel far on the boat when we are just there for a weekend. The Norfolk Broads has over 150 navigable miles of water ways, these are made up from seven different river systems. The Broads themselves are actually ancient peat enervations that form large lakes that the various rivers flow through. This gives the angler limitless fishing opportunities in some truly amazing scenery. A boating holiday on the Norfolk Broads is perfect for a family with a sense of adventure, a holiday where the great outdoors can be explored both by boat and on foot. A holiday where an angler can feel like a pioneer every day. It is the perfect holiday to spark a child's lifelong love of angling and create those priceless memories of fishing with Dad.

With over seven million visitors each year, the Broads are hardly the final frontier. However, an angler could be forgiven for believing they were the first to have fished their chosen spot. Every corner turned holds something new as one travels along the river. Miles of reed and lily fringed river bank that slowly merges into tree lined bank side, all holding many different species of wild life. My biggest problem on the Norfolk Broads is being spoilt for choice. I often move our boat five or six times a day finding it hard to settle with the constant nagging in my head that the grass is greener around the next bend!

The Broads are probably most famous for the bream, roach, rudd and pike fishing that they offer, but there are many more species to be caught. Really large hauls of bream can be taken from most areas using feeder tactics, feed being the key. Large amounts of feed are required to keep the fish in your swim, basic bread crumb ground bait is more than adequate. The average stamp of the bream is probably three pounds, but there are lots of five pound plus fish and a real stonking ten pound plus bream is a real possibility. If you are fishing the main rivers there can be quite a strong flow at times, so with this in mind a decent sized feeder will be needed to hold bottom. I use a running ledger with a two to three foot trace with a size 10-12 hook baited with three or four maggots. It can take a while to get



the fish feeding, but once the bream and roach move in it is usually a bite a chuck.

Although I do often feeder fish on the Broads in the summer months, I tend to get quite bored with bream fishing. They do not fight very well and hauling in

bream after bream quickly makes my arm ache. I enjoy trotting for roach on the

Broads, there is something very special about working a float downstream. I sit on the back of our boat and feed maggots little and often, working the float along the line that I am feeding. Last year, I bought a centre pin reel, this is loaded with 50m of 4lb line, it is great to use as the current will spin the reel nicely, allowing the bait to trot downstream naturally. The line can be stopped by simply putting a finger on the reel, this makes the bait rise up in the water and can often induce a bite.

My favourite time of year to be on the Broads is Autumn and early Winter. The summer crowds have left, there are far fewer boats, and it is truly peaceful. The colours of the Autumn trees reflected in the water at dawn while the mist rolls across the Broad are an amazing sight. At this time of year, I target perch and pike. This is not easy fishing, in fact, I catch far more and bigger pike from the rivers and canals local to where I live in Kent. The Norfolk Broads are vast and even a life time of fishing them would still leave much to be learned. But, by using basic water craft and experimenting with tactics, I always wrinkle a few fish out. I find catching pike and good sized perch from such a vast and iconic location to be extremely satisfying.

It is true that the pike fishing on the Broads for various reasons seems to be in decline. The 1960s and again in the 1980s many very large pike came from the Broads, especially from the famous Thurne system. In fact, the British record pike not once, but twice, came from the Thurne System. A truly wild 42.2lb fish, unlike these large fast growing fat trout water pike that currently produce record fish. This particular system is very prone to the effects of large tides and can see an influx of salt that kills the fishing. However, the biggest issue on the Thurne system is the reoccurring Prymnesium, a type of algae that releases toxins into the water killing vast numbers of fish. Thankfully, the Thurne does always seem to recover and at the time of writing this, it has produced a very large 38lb 2oz pike.

As our boat is moored at Stalham on the River Ant, this is where my winter pike and perch fishing is done. The second largest and my favourite Broad is Barton Broad. Barton is part of the River Ant, it is one and a half miles long and half a mile wide. The banks are lined with reeds and in the summer months fringed with lilies. There are many lovely bays that can be explored with a roving float fished live bait.

About six years ago, my wife and I had hired a boat for our yearly Autumn break. We had finished our evening meal and I was left wondering what to do with my time as I had fished all day and it was now dark. I decided to try and catch a big eel. I set up a very simple ledger rig, baited it with half of a small roach and lobbed it into the darkness. Sometime later, I could hear the clutch ticking away as line was being taken from the reel. To my surprise, a half decent pike had picked up my bait. After struggling in the dark, I eventually slipped the net under a moderate 14lb pike. Following this, I set up a proper rod to target pike with wire trace and treble hooks. Again it was a ledger rig baited with half a dead roach and again it was lobbed into the darkness. The bait was picked up very quickly, this time it was a much larger fish, unfortunately she was very deeply hooked, so I did not weigh her. I guess from other pike I have caught that she went around 22lb.

Nowadays, I only use single hooks, mainly circle hooks, and at night only on low resistance ledger rigs. I do lose a few jacks, but hook the better fish. I always fish three hours into darkness and fish the last two hours of darkness. This doesn't always work, but hey that's fishing!

Using the low resistance ledger and float ledger set ups with circle hooks and dead baits, I have caught some cracking perch from in and around Barton Broad. The dead baits are always coarse fish. The perch do not seem to be put off by baits of five or six inches, they wolf them down. I have caught four fish over 3lb on this method with a few upper 'twos' as well during the past two seasons. If I am to be honest, these fish are a very welcome by catch to what are really pike tactics. Next Autumn, I plan on buying some lighter rods, these rods will be light enough to enjoy the perch, but will have enough back bone to handle large pike. I am always experimenting with rigs and baits, always trying to ring the changes and refine my set ups. My best perch so far is three pounds fifteen ounces, so close to that magic four pounds mark that I am still to crack!

There are only a few weeks left in this season and I only have two more weekends that I can spend on the Broads before it closes. After the 15th of March, boat maintenance will be my reason for visiting the Broads, but I shall be itching for the re opening of the season so I can again wet a line in the majestic waters of the Norfolk Broads!"



Spring is on its way, the clocks go back on the 29th of March as days lengthen. Sea temperatures as I write this are still above 8 degrees...very warm for late February...will we see early plaice in numbers? So far this has been a winter of storms...will this continue into March only time will tell.

BEACH REPORT

Fishing has been limited with the extreme weather. Here are a few reports coming in over the last month.

A true inspiration

I saw this report from Ian Golds (in his day a great match angler). Sadly, Ian has cancer and he is bravely battling on, it's not in his nature to give up. I saw his post this morning, to me he is a great inspiration. His enthusiasm is unbounded for our sport, it really comes through, see what you think...

"10th of JanuRareRay 2020.....yep....the day I actually caught the rarest of fish... for me anyway!

Not been fish bothering since the end of November due to finger filleting, trip to France, illness, Christmas and the poxy weather, so I took the opportunity of a break in the wind and rain so toddled off to Eastney to see what was about. I didn't really care what I caught...I just wanted to go fishing...

Set up two rods, one with three 2/0's baited with a variety of fish baits for whatever liked bigger baits and the other with three size 2's and ragworm. If the whiting were there in numbers I'd pack up the worm rod.....they weren't...so I didn't..

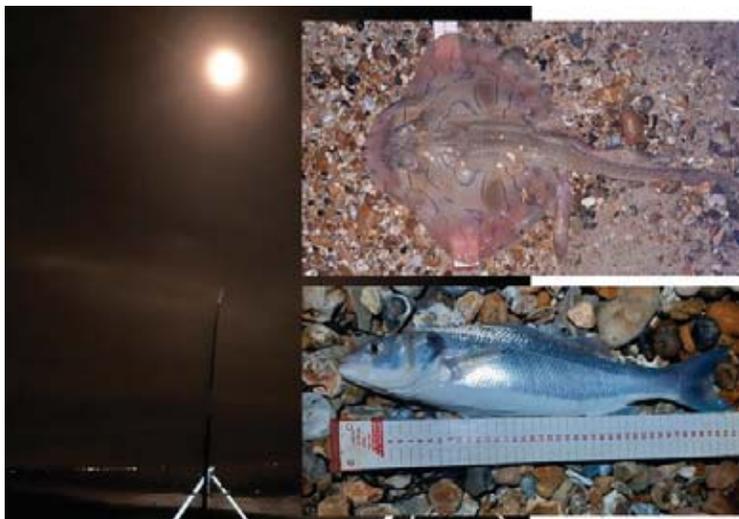
Anyway.....it came to pass that at 20:15 on this very day, I had what at first appeared to be a dog bite. Left it a while, and, after a few more pull downs and a fair bit of slack, began to drag in what I assumed was a double shot of roughback sharks as it was too heavy for one. OBVIOUSLY I don't catch rays..so it OBVIOUSLY couldn't be one of those...could it.... Anyway no.2....out of the building swell it only jolly well did come to pass that it was indeed a jolly old pretty patterned undulate ray! YEEFLIPPINHAH!! Anyway no.3...I obviously did a silly little fist pumping fish pump dance in the rather bright moonlight and took some pics for posterity as proof that I had actually managed to catch one when using bigish baits....at last. The only other undulate I'd caught was on a size 4 and a small mackerel bait when fishing for whiting...I am now almost a proper rayman!! Strangely I had some scales in my box which I found a while ago. Bought them a few years back when I used to take people fishing in case they accidentally caught something worth weighing....so I actually had the chance to try them out! I estimated the fish to be 6-7lb, and was quite surprised to see the needle dragged down to exactly 9lb. Were a few stones still stuck to it's slimy belly, so I'm taking to be about 8 1/2lb....not big by undulate standards but who cares..I actually caught one!!

Returned it to fight another day and carried on feeling rather chuffed.

The fishing was a tad slow, apart from one treble shot on the Big/O's, with just single whiting, mostly small, or nothing, but I didn't mind as I had caught a much sought after ray and was having a very enjoyable time in the dancing moonlight in what has been my salty playground for all of my life.

Anyway no.4...there's another anyway....just before midnight my peace was disturbed when I had a butt lifter! Obviously to many outside of the fishing fraternity that may sound somewhat...pervy...but most of you know what I mean as an unseen frisky sea creature attempted to drag my now horizontal rod from the tripod! After a very frisky fight, out of the swell came a chunky shiny spiny bass. Used my scales again (twice in the same session!) which showed it be a tad over 3lb, so two decent fish to start the year....perfick.

Packed up earlier than I had planned as I felt knackered, but enjoyed every single second. I may well have to go ray fishing again soon.....easy peasy innit!!!"



You either love them or not...

I had this report in from Johnny Boone on Monday...

"Picture of one of my catch last night, do you think the colours are pronounced"

The lesser spotted dogfish comes in various shades and various degrees of spots, yours looks a bit more like the LSD's big brother the 'Bull Huss', but you can't go by spots alone, you would have to check the shape of the 'nasal flaps'.



Nice to see more dabs being caught

I had this report in last night from Andrew Elsey...

"Had couple of dabs out and whiting from fishermen beach"



Sun bathing at Dengemarsh...

I had this report in last night from Neil Rodwell...

"Hi Tony. Busy day today down at Dengemarsh. I had 4 species after only 1.5 hours of fishing. Mainly dabs on the dropping tide with a lull at slack water then the rockling started. The day ended with double shots of whiting. 1 doggie in close in the morning. Nice sunny day on the beach with my coat off for some of it. Cheers for bait and will speak soon. Neil."



WDC...It's been blown off!

I have just seen this post from Simon Newman of the DAA...

"POSTPONED..... Tronixpro WDC. We are sorry to announce that this Sundays WDC has been postponed due to expected severe and dangerous weather conditions. The event shall now take place on Sunday 1st March, registration 0800 - 1000 and fishing from 1100 until 1600. We are very sorry for any inconvenience

this will cause especially to everyone who has made travel arrangements and booked accommodation. This decision has not been taken lightly but with the forecast showing 60 mph onshore winds, there really is no other option. We very much hope to see you on the 1st March."

Every cloud has a silver lining...

I had this report tonight from Don...

"Hi Tony,

Went today behind the boats, 2 hours before high tide, wind on my back, walking across the gravel looked good. I was met at the waters edge with what could have been hundreds and hundreds of dead shellfish washing in with every wave, obviously casualties of the last storm. High water mark was absolutely covered with dead shellfish, large cockles, clams, razorfish, slipper limpets. I used this free bait, but every time I brought in, my line was covered with remnants of shellfish, and terminal tackle caked with the same. After about an hour, no bites, realised that any fish would be gorged with this windfall food, I packed up went home, with free shellfish to freeze down for future, those offshore beds must have taken a real battering, and another storm over this weekend.

Regards Don Mcmurdo."

Tony replied: "Yes a storm gusting force 12 over 3 days on a Spring tide will rip out shellfish from the sand at low water. Washed into shore by the current 'Long Shore Drift'...first tide still in shell...second tide 'de-shelled'...beyond the third tide start to break up...but this is one reason why Dungeness is famous."

BEACH OUTLOOK FOR MARCH

If the weather changes, the wind stops blowing and it stops raining, I think that if some brave anglers that do get down the beach, they will be surprised how good the fishing will be!

BEST BAITS

Food for fish in its very basic form...lugworm...still works for plaice.

BOAT REPORTS

In spite of the windy weather, we have some very encouraging boat reports.

Well, well a tasty start to the year...

I had this report just in from Anthony out on Peganina (07989 778361) out from Rye...

"Think Arthur's face (right) says it all!"



Sunny day...catching a few rays...

I saw this report posted by Jerry Oiller who was out today from Dungeness...

"Fairchance fishing Dungeness 01797 363544 today. Plenty of thornbacks, landed on the deck today for the Tenterden Crew, caught 24, kept 15, the best going 12 lb, dabs, whiting and dogfish also caught. Happy Days"



The sea is still warm...like July...

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

"Unbelievable yesterday I was congering today and I ended up bream fishing!!! I've got spaces on offshore trips targeting bream and pollock end of the week. Cheers Ant"



So lightning strikes twice...

I had this report in tonight from Anthony out on Peganina (07989 778361) from Rye...

"So it wasn't a fluke - I have actually found them again!!! The lads had plenty of bream today also got in to the eels as it came dark!! I have spaces next weekend on offshore trips targeting bream, pollack and conger. Cheers Ant"



Climate changing...amazing...

I had this report in from Anthony this evening out on Peganina (07989 778361) from Rye...

"Unbelievable really to still be congering in the middle of January, think we decked 9 and dropped a few more on the way up. Photo is of Gareth (left) with his new PB conger. I have spaces tomorrow on a wrecking trip leaving at 9 give us a shout if you fancy it 07989 778361 Cheers Ant"

Jerry shows them how to do it...

I saw this report from Simon Newman out with Jerry Oiller on Fairchance (01797 363544) from Dungeness beach...

"Mr O (right) with the best squid of the day on our exploratory squid trip."



Perfect day for Trevor...

I had this report in last night from Trevor Bunney out on 'Elizabeth Jane' from Dungeness... "Hi Tony, cracking day on the rays today, local angler Steve from Ashford, Kent with a superb 14lbs 6ozs blonde ray, next up was Glen Stephenson with a blonde just over 10 lbs. The lads had plenty of thornbacks to 9lbs, to round off a perfect day, Martin from Ashford had a nice plump 3lbs codling. Well done guys! Regards, Trevor"



BOAT OUTLOOK FOR MARCH

It all comes down to the weather...yes the wind must be kind to us but the fishing should be great. With warm seas anything is possible...early plaice, bass and pollack.

BEST BAITS

As usual lugworm for flatties, otherwise fresh fish baits or bluey and herring.

BIG THORNBAC FROM DEAL PIER!

Paul Davies caught this magnificent thornback ray of 16lbs from Deal Pier. Lots of rays have been caught from the venue recently falling to fish baits.

This is the largest thornback reported from the pier for some time.

Channel Angling, conveniently situated at the pier entrance, stocks a great range of fresh and frozen baits and tackle. Call Fred Leach to order your bait and find out the latest catch news on 01304 373104.



HASTINGS

report courtesy of Hastings Angling Centre

Very few opportunities for the boats to get afloat this month, indeed for two weekends running all the beach matches were cancelled due to it being unsafe to be on them in such big seas. Beach fishing in general has been much curtailed.

On the odd day the boats could get out rays in plenty were found, Alan Kent's thornback of 12lb 7oz being best heard of. Pollack still sparse on the wrecks, possibly still dispersed chasing the abundance of sprats up the Channel at the moment.

Beach wise, the plaice haven't showed much yet, they don't like it rough, but a calm spell should see them come in. There have been lots of whiting, many small, some bass and quite a few dogfish. Dabs and flounders in low numbers. Once the sea calms down a bit, the flatties should be in after all the shellfish blown out of the bottom by the gales. There has been huge quantities all along the strand line.

Prospects for March, hopefully some calmer weather will allow the boats out after the pollack gathering on the deep wrecks. Calmer and cleared water should see plenty of plaice come inshore, some may be a bit thin after spawning but they should be mending fast with all the food about. If they do, then the catches in the rearranged beach matches could be very good.



HASTINGS & ST LEONARDS AA OPEN BEACH MATCH

Fished on Saturday with an increasingly stiff SW wind and building quite big sea. At last it was dry and mild. The heavily coloured sea produced a lot of undersize whiting, lots of rockling, a few dabs and flounders and a decent bunch of dogfish.

The winner fishing on peg 1 was Ralph Crosby with 13 fish for 7lb 6oz including 4 dogfish. Runner up on peg 2 was Eddie Ryder who also had 4 dogs and a couple of bits weighing 5lb 7oz.

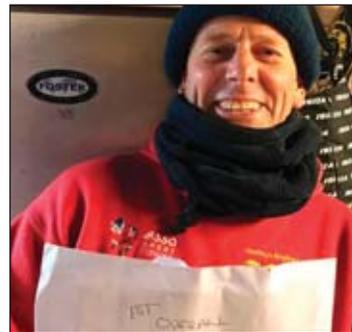
Heaviest fish on the day was a whiting of 37 cm caught by Steve Swan weighing 15oz. Dogfish are all credited with 1lb 4oz and returned immediately and don't count for heaviest fish.

A SECTION

- 1st. Eddie Ryder - 5lb 7oz
- 2nd. Julian French - 4lb 1oz
- 3rd. Sam Sampson - 3lb 1oz

B SECTION

- 1st. Ben Arnold - 5lb 3oz
- 2nd. Steve Swann - 5lb 1oz
- 3rd. Mick Snelling - 3lb 9oz



COARSE FISHERIES

Beaver Farm Fishery Eastbourne Road, Newchapel, Lingfield RH7 6HL	01342 324006 07710 656041
Charlies Lakes Steeds Lane, Kingsnorth, Ashford TN26 1NH	07857 539785
Chequertree Trout & Coarse Fishery Bethersden, Nr Ashford TN26 3JR	01233 820078
Claygate Lakes Collier Street, Claygate, Marden TN12 9PL	07770 513448
Coombe Wood Fishery Redbrook Street, High Halden, Nr Ashford TN26 3JH	07895 679569
Elphicks Fisheries Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden TN12 8EL	01580 212512
Furnace Brook Fishery & Fish Farm Trolliloes, Cowbeech, Nr Hailsham BN27 4QR	01435 830835
Gabriels Fishery Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP	07730 066088
Greenacres Farm Fishery Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden TN27 8EH	07933 934942
Hartley Lands Fishery Swattenden Lane, Cranbrook TN17 3PS	07703 825064
Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	01580 753813
Horam Manor Fishery Horam Manor Farm, Horam TN21 0JB	01323 840889 07707 759364
Iden Wood Fishery Coldharbour Lane, Iden, Rye TN31 7UT	01797 280180 07906 232225
Knightingales Fishery Stone-in-Oxney, Nr Tenterden TN30 7HA	07941 176205
Mousehole Lakes Maidstone Road, Nettlestead, Nr Paddock Wood ME18 5HR	07725 783405
Orchard Place Farm Fishing Lakes Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood TN12 6NY	01892 838576 07860 608218
Sandwich Lakes Coarse Fishery Sandwich Ash Road (A257), Near Canterbury CT3 2DA	07936 409912
Tricklebrook Fishery Colts Hill, Five Oak Green TN12 6SH	07743 955812
Wylands International AC Wylands Farm, Powdermill Lane, Battle TN33 0SU	01424 893394

TROUT FISHERIES

Brick Farm Lakes Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux BN27 4RS	01323 832615
Chalk Springs Park Bottom, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 0AA	01903 883742
Cinder Hill Fly Fishing Membership available from r.nathan@btinternet.com	01892 770903
Hastings Fly Fishers Club Powdermill Reservoir, Reservoir Lane, Sedlescombe TN33 0PJ	01424 870498
Hazel Copse Trout Fishery Baynards, Rudgwick, West Sussex RH12 3AF	01403 822878
Spring Hill Trout Waters Albans Farm, Romford Road, Pembury TN2 4BB	07951 304515
Tenterden Trout Waters Coombe Farm, Chennell Park Road, Tenterden TN30 6XA	01580 763201

ANGLING CLUBS / SOCIETIES

Bromley (Kent) & District AS PO Box 895, East Grinstead RH19 9ND	bdas-kent-enquiry@bdaskent.co.uk
Hastings, Bexhill & District Chris Pagan 07429 655237 Steve Potter 07935 268174 Postal enquiries: S.Corke, 2 The Siding, Bexhill-on-Sea TN40 1RF	
Linton Angling Society	Chris Knowler 07712 622858 chris@lintonangling.co.uk
Teise Anglers & Conservation Society Membership enquiries to email: teisesecretary@gmail.com Further information at www.teiseanglers.org.uk	07960 518738
Tonbridge & District A & FPS PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB	Donna 07947 557140
Wantsum Angling Association	robtuckbrown@hotmail.com Rob Tuck-Brown (secretary) 07484 144561

TACKLE & BAIT SUPPLIES

Absolute Tackle 12 Wealden Forest Park, Herne Common CT6 7LQ	01227 636724 07809 330854
Bodle Angling Southdown Store, Cuckfield Road, Burgess Hill RH15 8RE	01444 247757
Bankside Baits 'Customised hook bait specialists' email: steve@banksidebaits.co.uk	07874 347703 www.banksidebaits.co.uk
Camos Carp Cabin 11 Turner Street, Ramsgate CT11 8NJ	01843 581784 www.camoscarpcabin.net
Carpers Den Ashford Road, High Halden, Ashford TN26 3LJ	01233 850644
Channel Angling 158-160 Snargate Street, Dover CT17 9BZ	01304 203742
Crowborough Tackle Shop 2, Lexden Lodge, Crowborough Hill, Crowborough TN6 2EG	01892 667671
Dens Tackle 73 Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6JN	01303 267053
Fishing Tackle & Bait Ralph's Farm Shop & Nursery, Wierton Road, Boughton Monchelsea ME17 4JW	07724 776031
Henfold Bait & Tackle Henfold Lakes, Henfold Lane, Newdigate, Dorking RH5 4RW	07956 043922
Jack Frost Reynolds Place, West Green, Crawley RH11 7HB	01293 521186
Hooked on Green Unit 2, Bellbrook Industrial Estate, Uckfield TN22 1QL	01825 760139
Kent Tackle Hawkhurst Fish Farm, Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	01580 754422
Medway Tackle Supplies 11 Twydall Green, Gillingham ME8 6JY	01634 475260
NJ Tackle 150 Milton Road, Gravesend DA12 2RG	Tel: 01474 353998
Orchard Tackle 58 High Brooms Road, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9DB	Tel: 07494 670328
Pinions 431 London Rd, Ditton, Aylesford, Maidstone ME20 6DB	Tel: 01622 718580
Sheppey Angling Unit 5, Regis Business Park, New Road, Sheerness ME12 1HA	Tel: 01795 661089
South London Angling Centre 286 Lee High Road, London SE13 5PJ	Tel: 0208 852 4451
Sues Tackle Cabin The Spice Warehouse, Rye Harbour Road, Rye TN31 7TE	Tel: 01797 225015 07980 290247
Tony's Tackle Shop 211 Seaside Road, Eastbourne BN22 7NP	Tel: 01323 731388
Trade in Tackle Maidstone Road, Watlington ME18 5EH	Tel: 01622 814296 07941 085011

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