

SEPTEMBER 2020

FRESHWATER INFORMER f

No. 284

plus SEA INFORMER pages 44-49

**OLIVER SCOTT
with Grandad Dave
at VEAL FARM FISHERY**

FREE



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

It is difficult to believe that this issue marks the beginning of the Autumn season! I almost feel as if I have been hibernating and have missed out on a season. This year has been a very surreal experience and even now, it is still difficult to understand the carnage that the virus has wreaked upon us. However, in saying that, the fishing industry has been injected with a new lease of life given the additional trade that has been forthcoming. Our tackle shops have seen a remarkable increase in business, which is always encouraging news, and the local fisheries have been pretty much full since the easing of 'lockdown' restrictions back in May. No doubt we will see a slowdown as we head in to the Autumn, but the industry has been buoyed by the support it has enjoyed. Apparently, the EA reported a surge in rod licence sales with an additional 300,000 new licence holders. It is unclear how this number breaks down, but many will be new anglers to our pastime along with anglers returning to the hobby after an absence of some years, again very encouraging!

It was good to be back out on the road again last month delivering the August magazines. A few cups of tea were drunk on my rounds as I enjoyed some catching up at the fisheries and shops. Although the distribution of the Informer takes a full six days and quite a few miles, it is an important part of the magazine's relationship with its many advertisers and stockists. I feel that this personal touch is well received and appreciated and my visits offer the opportunity to swap notes and discuss any issues rather than by communicating with a rather impersonal email, which is generally the norm for businesses these days.

Mrs Reed and I will (hopefully!) be enjoying a week away in Cornwall later this month. It will be a much needed break after the year's exertions and I might even be able to wet a line myself! Due to us going away, there is a tight turnaround after the October deadline of Monday 14 September, so it would be greatly appreciated if all contributors can supply their copy in good time. Once back from our break, I will need to proof read before supplying the printers with a 'ready to go' file at 8am on Monday 28 September.

If you are an angling business and not yet advertising with us, there is no better time to get on board. Our advertising rates are extremely competitive and the magazine is seen by thousands of potential customers in your area each and every month! Please get in touch for an informal, no obligation chat, all our contact details are below.

Enjoy your fishing, Barry Reed

The Freshwater Informer

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COPY DEADLINE for OCTOBER 2020

MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2020

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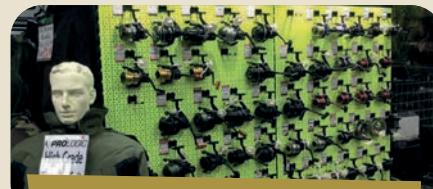
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Hawkhurst Fish Farm

Hawkhurst, Kent



20lb 6oz common - Dove Lake - Dave Connolly



26lb 3oz common - Main Lake - Andy Simpson



Aaron - Dove Lake - 24lb



Martin Parker - Match



27lb 7oz common - Main Lake - Lee Gannon



28lb common - Specimen Lake - Dan Barden



Mirror - Quarry Lake - Clive Richards



40lb+ catfish - Quarry Lake - Daniel Harman-Wilson



29lb 8oz common - Main Lake - Rob Buckmaster



Dove Lake - Wez Barnes - 28 lb 6oz common



30lb mirror - Specimen Lake - Simon Evans



39lb 7oz catfish - Quarry - Chris Batten

Elphicks Fisheries

Horsmonden, Kent



Garry Harrow - 51lbs West End Lake



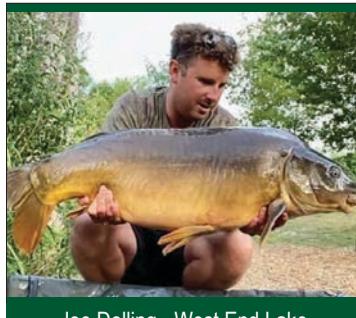
Nick Burrows - Pullens Lake



Henry Mulholland - 29lbs Prairie Lake



7 year old Mr. Abbott - 21lbs Kettles Lake



Joe Dolling - West End Lake

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Orchard Place Farm Paddock Wood, Kent



Lake 12 - 32lb mirror - Shane Cichlid



Lake 2 - catfish 29lb - Dawid Staniak



Lake 11 - catfish 35lbs



Lake 1 - Ashley Powell



Lake 3 - catfish 46lb



Lake 3 - 20lb 2oz - Louis



Lake 7 - 26lb - Amy Briffitt



Lake 7 - 32lb - Leon Mankelow



Lake 7 - 22.5lb - Lolly Witney



Lake 8



Lake 8 - 22lb 8oz - Harry Bond 16/08



Lake 8 - 20lb+ - Paul Savage



Lake 4 - catfish 38.5 - Jonny Ramshead



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facilities for ladies and gentlemen and both are maintained to the very highest standard. Our cafe is currently working within the Covid-19 guidelines, please call for update on service available.

**Frant Lakes
new booking
system is
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SINCE re-opening the complex following the Coronavirus outbreak, we have changed the way in which anglers are booked on to the lakes.

THE six main lakes are now open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday for day fishing only and swims must be booked via our new online booking system. To book your swim, please visit

www.frantlakes.com and you will find the big red button. By clicking on the 'Book Now' button, you will then be redirected to the booking page where you can book your lake, choice of day etc. This method enables us to monitor the number of visitors and keep our anglers and staff safe during their time at Frant Lakes. To ensure our anglers' safety and to comply with Covid-19 social distancing measures, we have reduced the number of swims available from 75 to 30.

OUR two specimen lakes can be booked by calling the office number **01892 616424**. You must be over 18 and pay by card at the time of booking.

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Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

PLEASE NOTE:- To fish Snipe Lake, Westlake (formerly Tuscany Lake) or Daughters Lake, there are certain tackle requirements in force. Please call or look on our website at beaverfarmfishery.co.uk The weather has again been super hot and its sometimes been hard going just sitting waiting for a bite in the heat. As of writing this the weather is slowly turning with cooler days and nights which should improve the overall catch rate.

Snipe Lake Once again, there have been some good catches considering the heat and the pressure on there. Well done to the following anglers: **Mick Clifford** had a 23lb mirror, **David Powel** banked a 20lb mirror, **Simon Gore** landed 'Hayley's Mirror' at a PB 37lb, **Myles Young** had a 19lb common, **Richard Lock** had a common of 22-14, **Chris Johnson** had a 30lb common, **Chris Edland** banked a common of 18-07 and a mirror of 18-08, **Darryl Cook** banked a common of 28-08, **Liam Hall** banked a new stockie of 15-14 with the help of us in the boat as it found its way into the pads, **Daryl McLaren** banked a common of 27-15, **Michael Daws** banked a mirror of 26lb on his first visit to us and a very well done to **Ben** who banked a mirror of 23-10 and the big grassie at a record weight of 30-08.



Liam Hall - 15-14 Snipe



Ben - 30-08 PB Snipe Record grassie



Darryl Cook - 28-08 Snipe



Daryl McLaren - 27-15 Snipe



Simon Gore - 37lb PB Snipe

Westlake (formerly Tuscany Lake) has again fished well for the cats, well done to young **Kieran Middle** who has waited for his 18th birthday before he could fish with his Dad and he banked his first cats at 28lb, 29lb and a PB of 42lb while his Dad **Gary** had cats at 20lb and 39lb, **Peter Ellis** waited the best part of his day session to bank a 49 then a massive 63-02, **Steven Liddle** had 7 cats to a PB of 63-02, **Gordon Noakes** was amongst the fish again with cats to 47lb, **Martin Smith** had 10 cats to 33-08, **Ross McDaniel** had 7 to 51lb and **Chris Reilly** had 5 cats to 46lb and then a PB of 64-07 and **Jeff Betts** continues his successful afternoon sessions with cats to upper 30's.



Chris Reilly - 64-07 PB



Kieran Middle - 42lb PB - four fish session

Jeff's Lake has, as usual, been producing F1's, small carp and some bream, but like the other popular lakes on the fishery, lots of bait has gone in and that makes it harder fishing sometimes. The first open match was held on Jeff's Lake since we re-opened after the lockdown and the top 3 were, **Tony Barton** with 23-12, 2nd was **Clive Mills** with 23-06 and 3rd was **Dave Johnson** with 22-04.

Moat Pond has been producing plenty of smaller carp, a couple of examples are **Tony Owens** banked 12 carp to 9lb and one crucian and **Jim Masters** had 8 carp to 6lb in 30+ degree heat.

Daughters Lake has again been quite hard going, a few carp have been banked to low doubles and the grassies to 25-12 which was banked by **Joe Hutchings**.

Eden Pond has surprised us by producing some really good catches of numerous tench to anglers even in the searing heat. We have also seen some small carp and silvers banked too.

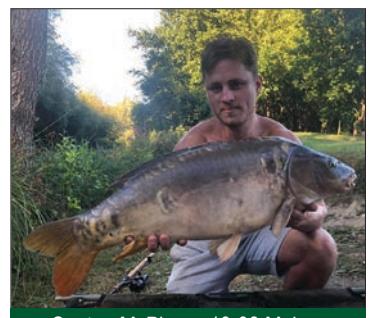
Maze Lake has been hard going in the heat as the bream didn't seem to want to feed when it was 30+ degrees. We have seen a few small carp and some nice silvers banked too.

Majors Lake fished well for the bream in the deep end of the lake by the aerator with anglers catching plenty when they hit the shoal. **Karl Wallis** banked 8 bream to 7-01 and a small common, **Fred Walker** banked a 13lb ghost mirror and his mate **Stuart Pirie** had a 7lb common and mirrors at 9lb, 12-02 and 18lb, **Radley Hill** banked a mid-double ghost mirror and **Seaton McPhee** banked a nice mirror of 19-08.

Well done to all and sorry to all those who weren't mentioned. Please don't forget to send in your catch report pictures.



Radley Hill - Majors



Seaton McPhee - 19-08 Majors

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Tricklebrook Fishery Five Oak Green, Kent



27lbs



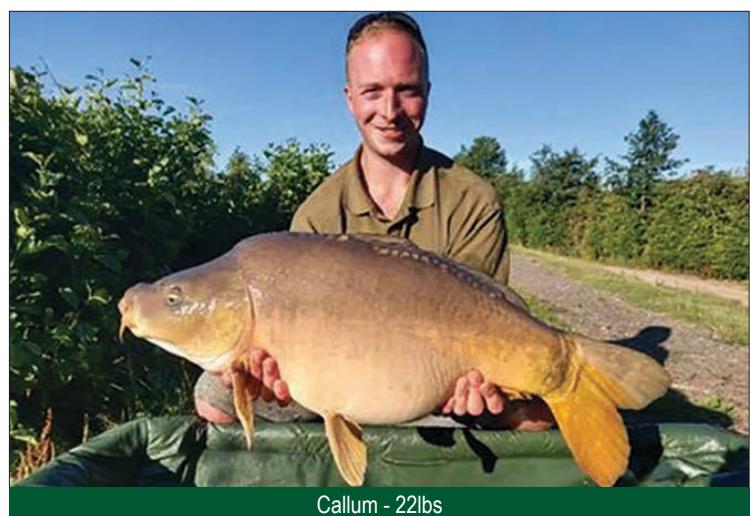
Callum - 18lbs



Lee Young with unusual golden tench



Lee Young - 24lbs



Callum - 22lbs



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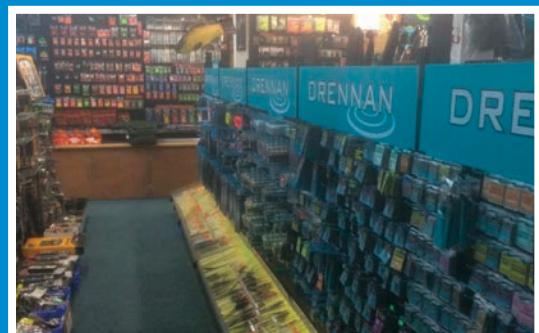
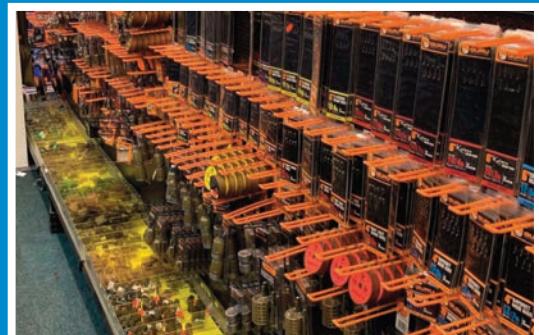
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Barden Lake With the water levels dropping on all of our lakes and the water temperature rising, the fishing has slowed up a bit. There have still been some of the big carp caught as well as some very large bream, along with tench to 8lb+, **Ellis Titheridge** catching the latest one.

Old Ballast Pit The low water level hasn't affected the fishing so much on here, but the lily pads were a problem for a while. A few of our regular members got together and held a socially distanced work party to remove some of the rhizomes. Carp have continued to be caught as well as decent bream and tench. Venue bailiff **Kristy Knowlden** had one of the fully scaled fish supplied by Coarsefish Uk.

The New Lagoon This popular little members only water continues to fish well with lots of tench to 8lb and bream, carp and mixed silvers also showing. On a recent visit, **Dave Sadler** beat his tench PB with a fine 7lb 8oz specimen, only to return a week later and beat it again with an 8lber. New member, **Mark Roe** has also enjoyed some fine sport with the tench and bream. Venue regular **Roger Fermor** has had some great sport targeting the carp with fish to 7lb. **Paul Mitchell** and his son also had a great day catching tench and bream.

Haysden Lake The water is still very clear and there is still a lot of weed around the margins, but some nice fish have been caught from the point.

Longfield Lake Not too many reports coming from here although match regular **Ray Berry** has been targeting the carp and has had several fish to well over 20lb. Bream to just over 10lb have also been reported.

Pippins Farm A few members have visited this lovely little farm lake and have had a thoroughly enjoyable day's fishing. Roach to over 1lb on sweetcorn have been reported.

Waller's Haven A bit of a journey for this water, but very rewarding for those that have visited. Good quality bream and tench being reported by some of the match anglers using the pole.

River Medway All of the river has been fishing fairly well as some of our match results prove. The known bream pegs have usually produced and back up bags of quality roach have also been frequent. Behind Barden Lake, Sportsground and Hartlake have all produced regular good bags of mixed species.



MATCH RESULTS:

NEW LAGOON - 26th July

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|-------------|
| 1st | Pete Groombridge | 60lbs 6ozs |
| 2nd | Lee Wakeman | 16lbs 10ozs |
| 3rd | Martyn Hill | 14lbs 4ozs |

HAYSDEN LAKE - Feeder Match

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1st | Martyn Hill | 11lbs 0oz |
| 2nd | Pete Groombridge | 8lbs 12ozs |
| 3rd | Roger Trask | 7lbs 14ozs
(14ozs Roach) |

HARTLAKE DOWN

- All-rounder Float Rod only

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1st | Larry Howard | 33lbs 2ozs |
| 2nd | Pete Groombridge | 7lbs |
| 3rd | Alan Leigh | 6lbs 5ozs
(1lb 6ozs Roach) |

EAST LOCK DOWN - All-rounder

Bob Chapman Pole Match

- | | | |
|-----|--------------|------------|
| 1st | Mick Smith | 16lbs 1oz |
| 2nd | Steve Parker | 11lbs 5ozs |
| 3rd | Tony Hyland | 9lbs 8ozs |

All-rounder

Cup Standings after 3 rounds

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|-------|
| 1st | Pete Groombridge | 27pts |
| 2nd | Mick Smith | 26pts |
| 3rd | Martyn Hill | 26pts |
| | Larry Howard | 25pts |

Match Championship Standings

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|-------------|
| 1st | Pete Groombridge | 96lbs 11ozs |
| 2nd | Ray Berry | 61lbs 9ozs |
| 3rd | Mick Smith | 54lbs 1oz |

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BAIT AVAILABILITY DEPENDENT ON TIDE AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

PB common for Kevin!

Kevin Henman has been in touch to tell us about his PB common caught recently from Kent's Hartley Lands Fishery:

"Last week as a cab driver, I spoke to a lot of people and by and large was talking about my planned fishing trip for the coming Thursday and Friday! The general response I received from them was "not for me, mate, all that sitting around and doing nothing, I would be bored senseless".

Well, Wednesday came and I finished work a little earlier and got home to load the car with Mrs H (my wife and angling companion) and pack all the essentials for our 48 hour adventure to Bramley Lake at Hartley Lands Fishery, Cranbrook). This lake was a real nemesis for my good lady, having blanked the last three sessions. Despite this, she was optimistic and set her goal to catch one of the many 20lbers that lurk in the watery depths. However, I have had a fair bit of luck at this venue, having caught 16 fish over five sessions, four mid teens and 12 twenties. The only thing that eluded me was one of the very few 30's. This was my challenge for the next 48 hours.

We chatted excitedly on the journey and once we arrived had a walk around the lake. We were pleasantly surprised to find only three other anglers and our favoured swims were free. The time was 19:30 so we quickly set up and got ourselves organised, desperate to get our rods in and primed ready for the night. The weather was dry and warm and the air pressure was very high. The only thing really in our favour was a brisk WSW breeze blowing into our corner of the lake. I'd set both of my terminal tackle with a 6" short fluorocarbon stiff hinged rig, topped with a size 8 Kamakura barbless hook. I baited these with a single Sticky Baits Krill dumbbell wafter.

I had already leaded various inviting spots and found a couple of nice clear hard spots. Previous experience helped with this. Two casts and my rods were set. One to the left of swim six, hard up to the reeds between two overhanging willow trees. The other out to my right close to the island. After scattering the areas with a handful of freebie 18mm CC Moore Pacific Tuna pre soaked boilies, we settled in for the night. After making a brew and half watching a naff film on Netflix, we both fell (half) asleep. I was keeping half an ear out for the slightest beep from my Fox alarms. At just gone midnight, I was awoken from my slumber by a screaming run on my right hand rod. I picked it up and immediately knew I was into one of Bramley's specimens. Whilst I played the fish, Mrs H stumbled from her bedchair and grabbed the landing net. Four minutes into the fight and the fish kited hard to the right and then the sickening 'ping' happened. The fish had spat the hook and disappeared into the darkness!



The usual two minutes of profanities ensued, but, I eventually calmed down and looked forward to the next 42 hours. After the rod was reset in exactly the same spot, we settled down again for the rest of the dark hours. At 04:30, I was sat outside my bivvy with a mug of tea watching the kingfishers flitting along the island. The sun slowly rose in the east and everything was peaceful. Mrs H was still sound asleep! The alarms had stayed deathly quiet since my loss at midnight.

At 05:45 all hell broke loose. My left hand alarm screamed out a one toner and the rod tip bent round. I picked the rod up and stepped back and immediately felt a heavy thud. I instinctively knew I was on the end of something big. By this time Mrs H was up and by my side. Ten minutes went by with the fish going left and right, but, hugging the bottom of the lake. Another five minutes and I'd managed to coax the fish closer and up in the water a little. Thankfully, the hook hold was steady and true. I hadn't even seen the fish yet, but just knew it

was one of the big girls. With my arm aching and adrenaline pumping, I managed to coax the beast over the outstretched net that Mrs H was gently pushing out into the margins. With her safely in the confines of my landing net, I felt a huge sense of relief. My good lady lifted the net to see my prize whilst I was still recuperating and exclaimed "look at the shoulders on that!". Between us, we managed to dismantle the net and roll the fish safely in the net and transfer her to my waiting cradle. After examining my catch and disconnecting her from a very solid hook hold, we weighed her and I'm pleased to say, challenge complete! The scales read 32lbs exactly, of prime, pristine common carp. This was my English PB and I was ecstatic. The rest of the session was very quiet with no more bites. But that didn't matter, the setting was tranquil as I reflected back to the conversations I'd had the previous week with my customers and thought "What was there not to like?" Job done!"

Best wishes, Kevin



Hartley Lands Fishery

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Hawkhurst Fish Farm, Hastings Road, Hawkhurst, Kent, TN18 4RT

Claygate Lakes Claygate, Marden, Kent

Well, what a month we have had with a lot of heat and not a lot of rain! Fishing has been slow on all lakes, but as I write, with the rain from the last few days, more fish have started to come out.

Lake Sophie Maggot/worm worth trying along with prawns.

Lake Eva We are finding anglers fishing 24-48 hours on this lake and then returning to do more sessions as they are getting a bend in the rod. Off the top in the evening and krill boilies are working. We will be carrying out bank and swim repairs to part of the lake at the end of September but the rest of the lake will still be open for fishing.

Lake Amy has been slow but fish have been coming out on zigs and pop-ups with the recent rain. Regulars have been catching on luncheon meat and halibut boilies, our regular Monday day guy **Ray** had a 30lb 5oz common.

WINTER TICKET Our ticket runs from 1st November to the end of March. It's that time already and this year's winter tickets are going on sale. As some of our regular anglers have struggled to get on the lakes this Summer, we have decided to order another 2 x 30s and 1 x hopefully 40lber (it was 35lb last year in the stock lake). These fish are coming from Chilston Fish Farm, as you can see from the pictures they do breed some lovely patterned carp. Only winter ticket holders will have the opportunity to name one of these fish which have never been caught or fished for before. Once the carp have gone in, winter ticket names will be put in the hat and drawn out to see who gets the first or second weekend. We will also be drawing names of people who would like to go along to the fish farm and help select which 30s and 40 to have from the holding tanks! **Cost for winter ticket: 2 rod ticket £200, 3 rod ticket £250.** You can also spin or dead bait for the pike in Lake Eva with a winter ticket.



Ray - 30lbs 5ozs



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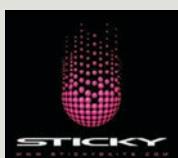
Have you visited the newly refitted Arun Angling store at Angmering?

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Letter to the Editor

Regular writer to the magazine, Robin Piper, sent in this letter to tell us about a session he had on Claygate Lakes just before 'lockdown':

"Dear Barry, The latest weather pattern had taken a turn for the better, so with most domestic duties done and a small job done on the car at Kwik Fit (tyres etc), my next thought was to load up the car and make for a short session on Lake Eva at Claygate Lakes near Marden.

I had intended to fish a certain swim, but, due to a match being on the Snake Lake, most people had set up on Eva, but, not to be put off, I too set up in the last but one swim and tucked down behind a small bush. There was not much movement on the surface so out came my faithful 10' ledger rod and reel loaded with 8lbs bs Maxima line with a running rig. The hook link had a size 12 Pallatrax barbless hook which was baited with popped up bread. I was ready by 10.30am, but one and a half hours later I had not had a touch, save for two small carp around 2lbs, so Plan B came to mind. This is normally a Summer tactic and not one I usually use early season. I began throwing pieces of bread out onto the surface and after a short time fish began to take some interest. Off came the Stonze weight and just a piece of bread was free lined over towards the far bank.



I watched with interest as a dark shape came up from nowhere and in an instant the line shot out and I picked up the rod. The result was a 4lbs common and this continued for the rest of my session with a steady stream of fish going into the keepnet. At 4pm it was time to inspect my catch. It was not a great fishing day, but for a short session, it was very good for me and my total weight was 37lbs. The best two fish of my catch were a 7lbs common and an 8lbs 4ozs mirror, see photos. The carp were still showing as I was packing up my tackle, still feeding on loose bits of bread left on the surface!"

Best wishes, Robin Piper

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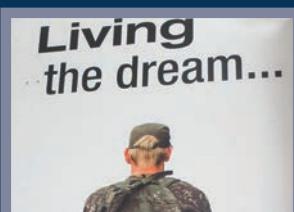
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Casting for Crucians

I am fastidious about my baits, a lesson taught to me by some very, very good anglers who easily proved to me that quality bait that is well prepared is one of the true edges to consistent catching and in my latest trip it would be no different.



For this short session, I was on my way to a pretty two lake complex called Youldon Waters in North Devon. I have fished the carp lake there historically, but my mission this trip was to have a virgin fish on the second lake, which is stocked with my target fish of crucians, plus tench, roach and some decent perch (that will be something for the winter on prawns!).

The evening before, as thunder crashed around the house and the rain poured down, I took my 10mm Squabs in Jungle (Tigernut, Peanut and Clove) and Crave (Wild Crab, Plum and Cranberry), and pre-soaked them with a 50/50 mix of their corresponding Liquidz and water. I left them covered for around three hours, or until they had softened through completely, as well as now being boosted with extra flavour. This results in a plumped up 'pellet' type bait which I can mount onto to the hair or cut into sections to put straight onto the hook because they have a rubbery consistency and so hold firmly in position. I drained off the excess liquid (saving this to mix in with my method mix) and left to air dry overnight so they will be good to go for the upcoming session. Honestly, effort really does equal rewards and I would always advise to get into the habit of pre-preparing.

As the clock struck four o'clock, I turned into the gates of Youldon and to say the weather was strange would be an understatement. It was horribly hot and humid, and showers forecast, moody would be the best description! But who cares, I am bankside and fishing a new water as well as targeting a fish I have not fished for since I was a kid, many, many moons ago!

Firstly, I must compliment the owner, Mick, as this is such a well looked after lake and the personal passion for this stunning part of his 'back garden' shines through. Immaculate swims and only nature surrounding me – the perfect setting bar the 'grumpy' weather!

Tactics were to go away from the norm of the venue, a pole approach, to fish the scaled down version of the Stonze System. A running 3/4oz Stonze as my weight and method feeder, buffer bead and then a short combi style rig with a size 14 Wide Gape Gripz. A proven system but certainly not on this water. As I have got older, I do try to experiment and taking this tactical approach to a new water adds further to my enjoyment, as I can certainly always learn more from such experimental sessions.



Bait was chopping and changing the flavoured Squabs and Daphnia and Maggot Crush wrapped around the Stonze, basic but effective and easy to use. Swim selection, always so especially important, was a corner swim with several nice features including an overhanging tree known to hold fish and decent depths of around five foot in the margins. That was set to be my home for the next few hours, unless the fish didn't play forcing a swim change – if the going gets tough, get going and change swims as it is far more effective by you going to them than expecting them to come to you! Rods cast out and by now it was like something out of the 'Hound of the Baskervilles' with a soupy mist trundling down the lake towards me – spooky! Like watching a float, I am entranced by looking at the tip of a light rod and it reinforces the bites we must be missing on the heavier gear we see in angling today. The tip is like a float and fishing a tight line you can see the tiny movement and anticipate that wrap around – the hours can just disappear as I sit transfixed.

I know I bang on about the ingredients of baits being more important than the colour or flavour, and I know I am happy that the 'fish farming' ingredients and added attractors of the Daphnia and Maggot are right up there. A very versatile mix that can be used as a general ground bait as well as the perfect method mix, you can even make a quality hook bait paste as well.



POM'S PEG

For this short session, I was on my way to a pretty two lake complex called Youldon Waters in North Devon. I have fished the carp lake there historically, but my mission this trip was to have a virgin fish on the second lake, which is stocked with my target fish of crucians, plus tench, roach and some decent perch (that will be something for the winter on prawns!).

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Swim selection, always so especially important, was a corner swim with several nice features including an overhanging tree known to hold fish and decent depths of around five foot in the margins. That was set to be my home for the next few hours, unless the fish didn't play forcing a swim change – if the going gets tough, get going and change swims as it is far more effective by you going to them than expecting them to come to you! Rods cast out and by now it was like something out of the 'Hound of the



With both my Stonze loaded with the mix it was not long before I started to see slight trembles as fish homed in on my method balls and they started feeding on the mix. My heart races and my right hand hovers over the reel seat. I am fishing light, including my favourite rod, an old Maver Abyss which is so sensitive, and the reels loaded with cobweb thin Gamma in 2lb.

Whack, the tip wraps around as the fish had discovered the hook bait – how on earth had I missed that and again a reminder that every day in angling is a school day! Crucians can be fickle feeders and notoriously hard to hook and I hold my hands up high and happily admit I was just not quick enough to hit some of these bites over the next couple of hours. They really did appear 'slam dunkers', but I was out of touch, too long has gone by where I have not been



fishing so delicately and I was certainly being taught a lesson. But, unlike the weather, which was now raining, it was far from all doom and gloom as some beautifully conditioned crucians kept coming my way. They really were in outstanding form and again highlighted the careful management of the venue and the enthusiasm behind the scenes that keep the fish in such great condition.

For me, it was an emotional visit down memory lane where I recall catching my first crucian from a small lake on a holiday park in Mablethorpe at the age of 12. This type of fishing gives me the peace to just sit and think and the only downside was the same old story for all of us, just one last cast, please just one last cast, as always I did not want to go!

With that life became somewhat chaotic as my left rod went around, and another pretty crucian to add to my tally was drawn over the net chord when my right rod had a bite and was nearly pulled off the rest. Another fish on, but I could immediately tell this was no crucian as a strong fish barrelled off nodding its head; Tench time! An exhilarating fight on the light line, but eventually I had a lovely shining green bodied and red eyed tench in the net, along with a rather surprised crucian. Light conditions were grim, but a couple of shots taken and both fish safely popped back in their home. That was it, or should I still have that one last cast....!

With all my recent angling focused on specimen fishing, it was a real step back in time and has only made me thirst for more such great sport. Was I losing my angling roots by forgetting the fun and excitement of fishing for such fish on such balanced gear? Yes! Rest assured, I have been pulled back from the precipice and firmly reminded that there are a lot of species I have been ignoring for too long. Going forward it is going to be a mix of everything, I have always described myself as a pan species angler and Youlton Waters has firmly reminded me of who I really am!

If you are in the area and fancy having a crack at this lovely fishery, please check out the Facebook page for Youlton Waters.

It is a day ticket only and you need to book on in advance but is well worth a visit.

<https://www.facebook.com/Youlton-Waters-Coarse-Fishery-215479181829828/>

Next session is on the River Wye chasing after barbel and chub so watch this space to see how I get on, as well as wishing me good luck! Until next time, stay safe and catch more!

Simon 'Pom' Pomeroy
E-mail: simon@pallatrx.co.uk



Magazine subscription service resumed!

I am delighted that the paper copy of the magazine is back! I realise that the recent changes brought disappointment, especially among our many magazine subscribers who are unable to pick up a copy locally.

The cost of this service will, I'm afraid, have to increase. The new price will be £25 for twelve months subscription. The increase is due to me not having access to the bulk postal rates as before and carrying out all the packing myself. However, the cost of each month's magazine is a little over £2 delivered to your door, so I feel it represents great value for money. Previously, the printers packed and dispatched the subscribers' magazines at source, but due to changes in the production procedure, I have taken over this task! Payment can only be made by BACS (bank transfer) or by cheque. I am happy to provide the magazine's bank details for payment on receipt of the subscription application below.

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Gripz Fishing Hooks

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

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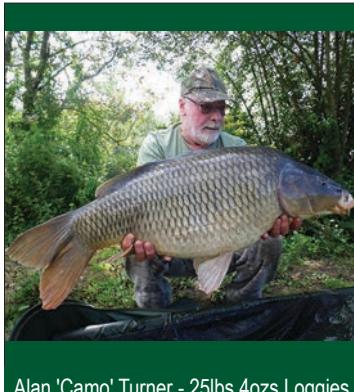
The winner of the PALLATRAX GRIPZ Hooks Set for AUGUST is...

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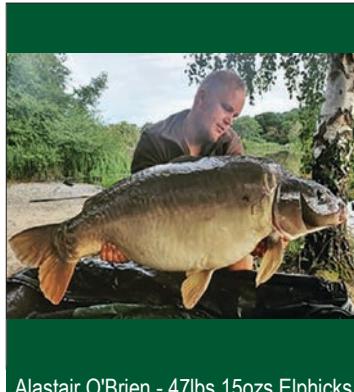
well done!



Adam Fairclough - Manor Fishery



Alan 'Camo' Turner - 25lbs 4ozs Loggies



Alastair O'Brien - 47lbs 15ozs Elphicks



Andy Simpson at Hawkhurst



Bradley Avery - 28lbs 10ozs Lovelace Farm



Chris - 28lbs Hawkhurst Fish Farm



Ben Lawrie-Raison - 40lbs 14ozs



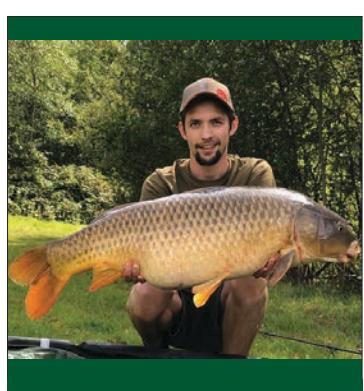
Dan Westbrook - 16lbs Iden Wood



Dylan Lennard - Sussex Park Lake



Glen Wood - 24lbs Members Water



Jack Watts - 32lbs Wylands



James Clifton - 13lbs



Jamie Paine - 36lbs Menards



Clive Mitchell - 31lbs Hawkhurst Speci Lake



Wayne Moore - 15lbs Wylands



Kevin Westbrook - 23lbs Iden Wood



Lee Rooke - 33lbs 6ozs Elphicks



Jack Wood - 32lbs Members Water



Paul Willis - 38lbs Elphicks



Rob Buckmaster - 29lbs Hawkhurst



Ron Davis at Edenbrook



Scott Binge 23lbs



Terry Donovan - 38lbs 4ozs Loggies



William Benningfield - 30lbs Martello Lakes



Phillip Davies - 24lbs Loggies



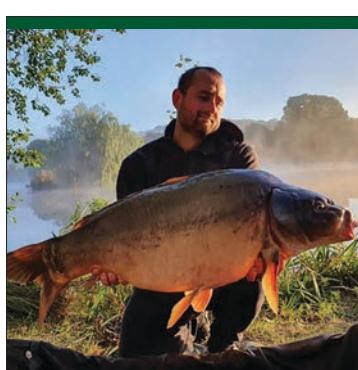
Jake Butler - 25lbs EMR



Joanne Croft - 15lbs Frant Lakes



Kelly Moore - 20lbs Wylands



Luke Williams - 34lbs Elphicks



Mark Day at Sandwich Lakes



Andrew Stanley - Monk Lakes



Mark Maryan - Sam's Lakes



Martin Donnelly - 34lbs Coningbrook



Carl Smith - Hawkhurst Fish Farm



Charlie Hall - Hawkhurst



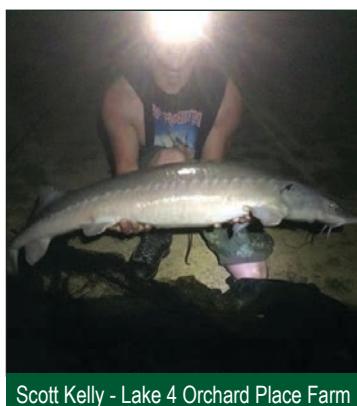
Ricky Young - 38lbs Elphicks



Danny Mears - Cottington



David Bates - New PB Darenth



Scott Kelly - Lake 4 Orchard Place Farm



Shane Lee - 29lbs Falkenvil



Alex French - 101lbs Crows Green Fishery



Jez Lambert - 33lbs 10ozs Elphicks



Kevin Baker



Michael Turner - 31lbs 8ozs DDAPS Water



Michael Whitney - Yateley North Lake



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Facilities include a club house with toilets, shower, wet room and kitchen facilities.

This beautiful setting needs to be visited and enjoyed!

Prices start at £10 per session on the coarse lakes, £15 for the specimen lakes rising to £25 for a 24 hour ticket (£5 extra for a third rod).

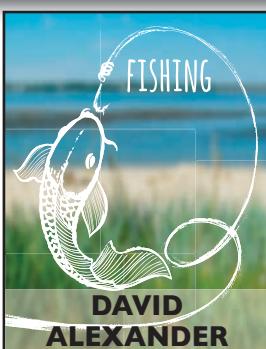
Gates open at 7am and close at 7pm

SENIOR DAY TICKETS ON OUR COARSE LAKES HERON AND BLUEBELL ARE AVAILABLE FOR £5 MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY

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Thank you to our Junior Informer Sponsors

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

September is the first month of Autumn and we say goodbye to another Summer season! It has certainly been a good Summer for fishing and fine weather, but not so good for school and the restrictions that the virus brought with it. Many of you would no doubt not have been to school since Easter which must seem like light years ago now! However, I am sure that you will be looking forward to getting back to a more normal routine and seeing your friends once again. Due to the schools' closure, many older students would have not taken their planned exams and have had to rely on an assessment and predicted grades so I hope that you have obtained the levels that you expected!

However, the fishing has been pretty good and thanks to everyone for their catch photos this month. We have received some great pictures over the last couple of months! Well done to Gemma and Roman this month who were chosen by Pallatrax as their Catch Photos winners from the August magazine. In case you were unaware, Pallatrax choose two Junior photos each month and the winners receive one of their 'Ready, Steady Fish' packs. All you have to do, to be in with a chance of winning, is go fishing and send us your catch photos! Easy, peasy! All our contact details are at the bottom of the inside front cover.

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

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JUNIOR INFORMER PHOTO ALBUM

September 2020



Alfie Burton at Coombewood Fishery



Erin Goodrich 14lbs 9ozs at Hawkhurst



Reuben Drake - 20lbs Majors Lake



Poppy Milsom



Skye Stanley and Dad Andrew with a new PB of 20lbs at Monk Lakes



Robyn and Jack's first trip on the bank



Tyler Lillycrop 13lbs Iden Wood

Each 'Ready, Steady, Fish' pack contains:

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

The 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!



Gemma
Baker

WINNERS

Roman
Richards



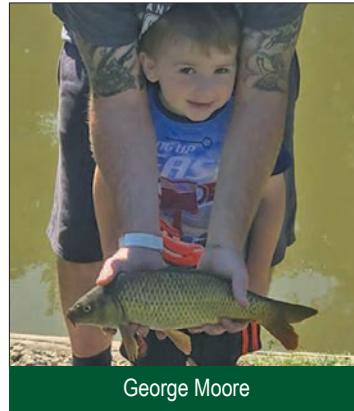
The two lucky winners for August
well done!



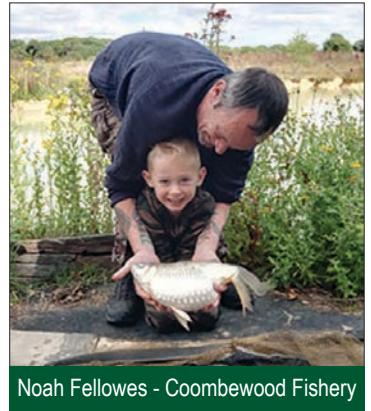
Quinn Matthews
13lbs 12ozs New PB at Knightingales



Archie Abbott 21lbs Elphicks



George Moore



Noah Fellowes - Coombewood Fishery



Gemma and Megan Baker with a double take off the top!



Harry Metcalfe - Oakley Road Fishery



Oliver Scott - 7lbs Veal Farm



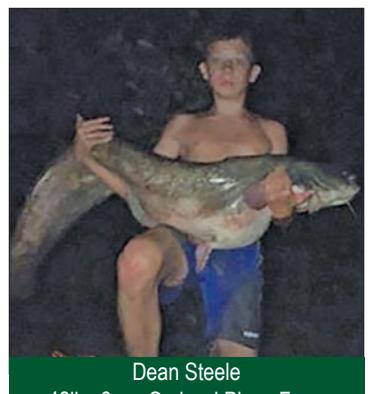
John Hallam with his first carp



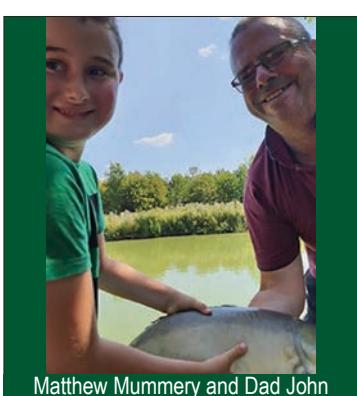
Freddie Pritchett - first sea fish!



Darren and Jessica Moore



Dean Steele
42lbs 6ozs Orchard Place Farm



Matthew Mummary and Dad John
9lbs Sumners Ponds



Michael Sladden - First time fishing!



Darcy and Joseph - Sutton



SEPTEMBER TIP OF THE MONTH from instructor Rob Goble

September is upon us and we are still not out of the woods yet: is there light at the end of the tunnel with this Coronavirus pandemic, I ask myself? Thankfully though, we are still fishing!

At the beginning of 'lockdown' most things in life came to a halt and with it the Kent Fishing 4 Schools team, comprising of myself, Warren White, David Evans, Ian Tucker, Kevin Durman and Charlie Rayner, all of our planned sessions with the schools had to be cancelled and with that, all the hard work in organising venues and schools, scrapped. As time ran on, the three mental health groups: Charlton Athletic Community, The Trevor Gibbins Trust and Choice Support from Maidstone all had to be cancelled. Very frustrating and disappointing for all of us, but it was all about staying safe,

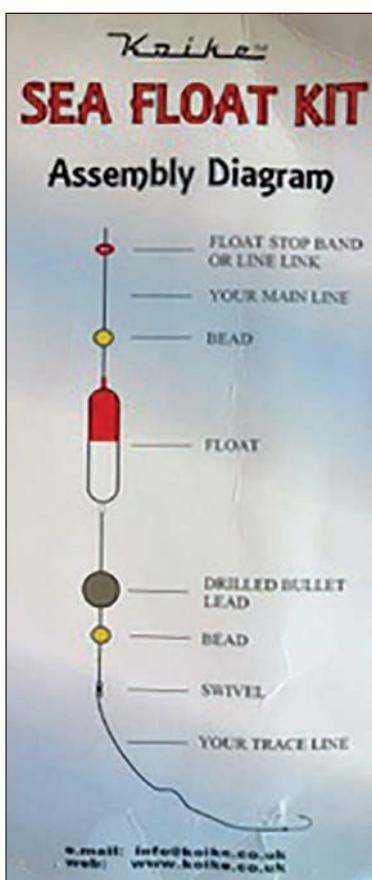
However, all was not lost! A programme of educational based activities was launched online for anyone at home or at school, why not have a look at www.fishingforschools.co.uk. We have totally rejuvenated the site and hope that there is an appeal in there, for everyone.



Now, fishing! September is usually attributed to the Crane Fly (daddy longlegs), especially if you trout fish. The larvae is called a leather jacket and a curse to the gardener as it eats the roots of young plants as well as roots of grass, as I found out earlier this year when most of my lawn was destroyed. There is an "up-side"! The adult's downfall are when hatched and taking to the air. The Daddy Longlegs are cumbersome fliers with little or no direction. The wind will take them on to the water where their legs tend to stick fast and glue them to the surface, bad news for them, but, good for us! A trout-feast often ensues if fallen or blown onto water and having become stuck in the surface, all the commotion when trying to release themselves grabs the trout's attention. If you time it right and the wind is favourable then fish an imitation.

Nothing complicated is needed and I have tied a couple up (see picture), one has a close cell foam body, this helps to keep it high and floating and once cast out, just make sure you keep in touch with the fly (minimum slack line), you can of course give an occasional twitch, imitating the struggle of the natural. You will experience a lot of splashes to your offering, with some missed takes. However, when that trout takes confidently, the line will move and tighten; that's' when you lift into the fish. You can

also have crane fly patterns with a gold beaded head, this will take it down, but can be effective when pulled like a lure. We are still on school holidays (at the time of writing) officially and with no one on destination holidays and more on a form of a staycation and with the weather as it has been, more and more families have been holidaying



around our coast. This, is where you can possibly try salt water fishing for the first time or, if you already do, you can introduce other members of the family. Good sport can be had with a fly rod (see last month's tip in the Freshwater Informer) and if you sea fish in any case, then great news. You can also try float fishing as well and this can be tremendous sport.

You might care to try, if using conventional sea gear and fishing from piers or sea walls or on a very steep, shelving beach, a slide-float rig down the line once you have cast out and the lead is settled on the bottom (see picture). It is a large float with a bullet weight to cock the float, these can be purchased from good sea angling stores or online and can be purchased as a ready made to fish set up. As you will see, I have included a swivel clip (obtainable separately), which you attach to your main line. This will slide down and fish shallower and is especially good for mackerel, garfish, pollack and bass. Bait can be small slivers of fish or worm baits or even prawns. Great fun for all the family and don't forget your hat and sunglasses and sun cream. If you are fly fishing especially, remember to make sure that no one is behind you when casting!

Whatever your passion, have fun and stay safe!

Bob G.

Fishing for schools - SEPTEMBER UPDATE



THE DIRECTORS CUT!

by founder *Charles JARDINE*

Well, you might think that an organisation dedicated to bringing angling into schools, would, at the moment, be a little, shall we say, "relaxed". Ok, I know that the school holidays are here (at the time of writing), but the period leading up to that point is normally our busiest, but have we slowed down at Fishing for Schools? Not a bit of it!

As mentioned in the last edition, none of us connected with F4S is letting up pace. Sure, there are challenges, massive ones, actually. However, our aims and objectives remain utterly unchanged - giving young people an opportunity to fish and learn.

One challenging area is funding and the increasing difficulty of raising the necessary finances to keep us going and like every charity, we are suffering because we, simply, cannot maintain our usual operations, but there are ways, you just have to be "live" to them.

However, we would not be worthy of the support in our community, if we collapsed and fell at the first major hurdle. We have found other ways: innovated and intend embarking on new courses of action and activity, which I will outline in the coming editions, ways in which YOU can play a part and have a role. I am excited about the future, certainly not downcast!

All of this I will bring you in the future, but for now more of a bit of reminiscing, really. Normally, I would update you about schools and the fabulous coaches that we have in our Kent and South East team, but, not this month! As someone who spent their earlier years - well, half my life actually, in Kent, I still love to visit. The county is, I think it's fair to say, arguably the finest coarse fishing county in the country - still.

Having grown up in Whitstable and know the frozen fingered misery of fishing for flounders during the depths of winter, no thermal gloves back then, it was the long summer holidays and the quest for rudd on the Seasalter marshes and the tench at Westbere that will be with me 'till my last gasp and Oh!, the pike fishing! My father managed to "wangle" trips to Eastwell Park - and Lord!, I thought I had gone to angling heaven, but in the summer, about now, it was tench fishing and what tench fishing! Those long school summer holidays spent under the great canopies of cedar tress and the idyllic beds of lilies that fingered their way out across the lake; then the profusion of 'Alka Seltzer' fizzing bubbles of feeding tench chaining their way through the gaps in the lily beds, our hushed expectant thoughts and anticipation as a fizz of bubbles erupted around our floats ...all this, as the sun slipped behind the trees and turned a world into warm shadow. Memories that I will keep sacred until my last breath.



But, our sport is "immediate". Fishing is to be done; not endlessly talked about and definitely not just about conversations that start with: "...do you remember when....". That is why I was thrilled to accompany Andy Lush on a recent trip to Lakedown. I was so happy to see how this water, always one of our loveliest small water fly fisheries, had been revived by Jamie Daltrey. But, like so many of our small waters, the heat of high summer will make it tricky, to neigh impossible, but, for those of you who fly fish - even those who aspire to fly fish, once September and cooler conditions drift in, put Lakedown firmly on your "must-do" list. The place is a joy. Great fishing at a great price and set in a fabulously beautiful location

I just wish I lived a little closer. Somerset seems another world away, but in reality, just three or so hours, I will be back. You can never quite leave the place of your birth and angling years.....ever!

Tight lines, Charles Jardine

River Informer

Welcome to the September River Informer!

It is hard to believe that the Summer has ended and we move in to another season! However, Autumn is a fine time of year to fish and I know that this time of year is a favourite for many anglers. It was a very dry Spring and Summer with little rainfall, certainly very different to the very wet Winter we endured when we were desperate for it to stop raining! Although river levels have held up quite well, they certainly need some 'refreshment' now. No doubt once it starts to rain, it won't know when to stop! Please remember to send me your catch reports for this section, they are most appreciated and enjoyed by the readers. All the magazine contact details are at the bottom of the inside front cover.

Local river produces the goods!

James Clifton has enjoyed success on his local Kent river and these two fine fish were just a couple that he caught during his sessions.



Lee Prior - 11lbs



Match results courtesy of Fred Brown

MAVER OPEN River Rother, Bodiam, Kent - 30 fished

This match was a fund raiser for the England Ladies Team for the World Championship in Holland next year and raised over £420. Winner was Kev Dyer (Preston Innovations Delcac) on upstream end peg 30 with 9-6-0 of roach and chub on pole and maggot. Second was veteran Paul Udell (Maver SE) with 8-5-0 on the same method.

Result:

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|--------|
| 1st | Kev Dyer (Preston Innovations Delcac) | 9-6-0 |
| 2nd | Paul Udell (Maver SE) | 8-5-0 |
| 3rd | John Cooper (Maver SE) | 5-14-0 |
| 4th | Charlotte Gore (Maver SE) | 5-8-0 |
| 5th | Fred Brown (South East MG) | 5-7-0 |
| 6th | Jerry Morgan (SEMG) | 5-3-0 |

MAIDSTONE VICTORY OPEN River Medway, Barming - 26 fished

The big mid week turnouts continued on this series and the weights were close on a clear river and bright sunshine. John Gore (Maver SE) won off end peg 51 with a big bream and skimmers on long pole and worm to weigh 11-14-0. A nice bag of bits 7-11-0 on whip and maggot was second for Dave Roberts (Medway Tackle) at peg 22.

Result:

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|---------|
| 1st | John Gore (Maver SE) | 11-14-0 |
| 2nd | Dave Roberts (Medway Tackle) | 7-11-0 |
| 3rd | Kev Dyer (Preston Innovations Delcac) | 6-10-0 |
| 4th | Richard Taylor (Medway Tackle) | 6-5-0 |
| 5th | Fred Brown (South East MG) | 6-3-0 |
| 6th | Doug Botley (Maver SE) | 5-13-0 |



Bankside on the Sussex Ouse with Colin Etherington

Tales from the Ouse!

The weather during August has been rather hot to say the least, temperatures soared at times and we certainly felt it in the South East. I'm personally relatively accustomed to the heat, having lived in southern Spain and Dubai, but this weather felt different as I had no air conditioning. Sadly, global warming is a reality and certainly not a subject that should be joked about. In Sussex, we experienced very little rain during July and the beginning of August, consequently the Sussex Ouse has been running low and clear. Hence, I took the decision not to target the river during the heat wave, barbel in particular don't revive as well as other species during these incredibly hot periods and oxygen levels are often low compounding the issue.

These combinations don't provide me with what I consider ideal conditions to be fishing. I've noticed over the last 5 years that my summer fishing has got somewhat harder and harder whilst my winter fishing has taken off brilliantly. Not only are our summers hotter generally than in previous years, I'd certainly also wage a bet that our winters are also somewhat milder. All of the double figure barbel I've caught (except 1) have been taken after October. The most memorable two were caught during the months of January and February. The fish are at their highest weights and they look in absolute pristine condition. The water levels are generally high, the water is coloured, and most rivers are quite often pushing through hard. Combine this with a mild water temperature and you could be in for a red-letter day.



A beautiful double figure barbel caught during the mild weather we experienced in January. Personally, I enjoy winter fishing over summer fishing.

That said, we have had some torrential downpours and the river has gained some water and the temperatures have dropped substantially. This gave me a very small opportunity and seeing I hadn't cast a line in over two months, I was itching to be back on the bank. With the deadline for the magazine just a matter of hours away, I set my alarm for 4am and awoke to a foggy overcast morning that was set to include thundery showers.

Dawn hadn't quite broken when I arrived, but I set up by head torch and used a simple open ended Korum feeder with a two foot hook length [10lb Drennan Fluorocarbon] with a size 8 hook. Sadly, my lobs didn't make it through the heatwave so I used my 3FT Twitch Herring and Lamprey pellets on a hair with pellet, hemp and a krill and shrimp based ground bait in the feeder.

I was getting knocks from the off and I was relatively confident I'd get a take from either a chub, bream or barbel. Typically, as I poured a strong black coffee the rod signalled a couple of sharp knocks, but not 'strikeable'. I put the cup down instantly and my hand hovered over my reel seat as I waited to see if the rod hooped over. It didn't and after another twenty minutes I decided on a recast.

I changed the hook bait as I always do, the feeder was rammed with goodies and I under arm swung my bait into position against the far bank. It was only out a matter of ten minutes before the rod burst into life and I struck into a lovely fish that gave a decent account of itself as I played it through the main current. Once it surfaced, the game was over and I netted a pristine clean river bream. This was my first fish in 10 weeks and after taking the selfies, I slipped the fish into my 50" cat



3FT Twitch Smoked Herring and Lamprey pre-drilled pellets make an awesome hook bait.



I was getting knocks from the off and waited patiently for a 'strikeable' take, the takes from barbel can be pretty impressive to say the least.



Signal crayfish are far bigger than our native crayfish which have been in serious decline for many years.

net that I use for regaining the strength of the fish after capture. Another angler arrived and asked how I was doing and I replied: "I've just had a lovely bream!" to which he retorted: "There's no such thing!". To this comment I beg to differ, I enjoy fishing and that takes on board all species whether intentionally caught or not.

On a final note I have been sent a couple of pictures of a signal crayfish that was caught fair and square on rod and line from the upper reaches of the Sussex Ouse. This is the first that I've actually seen, albeit I've found a couple of hidden traps I've never encountered one myself. Signal crayfish are an invasive species that aren't indigenous to the UK. It is the Environmental Agency's (EA's) stance that they should NOT be returned to the waterways alive. Sadly, these crayfish have a terrible impact on our native species and they are most unwelcome in our waterways.



I took the decision not to target the rivers during the heatwave, barbel in particular don't respond well to being caught in such high temperatures.



The weather looked spot on to catch a fish and it felt wonderful that the temperatures had dropped.



This bream was absolutely pristine and a delight to catch having been absent from the bank for over two months.

The Golden Years of Coarse Fishing

by Bob Rolph

THE BIRTH OF THE BIVVY: PART ONE

- from bell tents to ridge tents, from lean-to's to bivvies via brolly camps!

Today, whilst you are sitting in your luxurious purpose built lightweight nylon bivvy, with all 'mod cons', it is worth recalling how early developments in the 1960s led to all this gear being so easily available to the carp angler nearly 60 years later.



Modern day carpings

Three night carp, tench, eel and catfish trips were the order of the day for us youngsters, with no ties during those heady years of the 1960s and 70s! Matchmen mainly used these huge umbrellas on the rivers, but up and coming specimen hunters were looking for a new design in which to camp for the long weekend sessions that became prevalent in those days.

John Goddard's tackle company, Efgeeco, produced all the best equipment at that time, but the bright green canvas brolly needed toning down with a sludge coloured dye from Woolworths before it could be considered in our new design! In 1963, Ron Blackmore an up and coming big fish angler from Charlton and a member of my Kent Group, had an idea for a fishing shelter based on the eight sided umbrella principal and he set to work to build a prototype structure using a lightweight dull green 'throwover', pegged down with a door and tied down at all 8 rib ends.

The four of us Ron, Dave Cruickshank, John Kane and myself often spent most weekends together at carp and catfish lakes in the Home Counties and we all improved this design to our own needs using canvas sheeting, camouflaged netting and metal tank aerial sections obtained from the ex - Army surplus stores. I didn't like the fact that the centre pole always

During the 1950s, at famous carp waters like Redmire, Woldale and Dagenham, Dick Walker and his pals used ex-army white bell tents, then ridge tents in swims like the Willow Pitch at Redmire Pool for protection during the night, while Jack Hilton, Dick Kefford, Fred Wagstaff and Gerry Berth Jones all used a lean-to ground sheet in their overnight swims to obtain a little protection from the elements whilst they were carp fishing. Just a pair of sturdy forked sticks and a crosspiece with a canvas groundsheet spread over the top and no sides!

The advent of the giant green 46 inch ribbed Efgeeco green fishing umbrella in the early 60s saw my mates and I use this as the basis of a makeshift shelter, angled at 45 degrees with groundsheet sides, a bedchair underneath and a brass meths Primus stove to pump up, in the unlikely event that we ever had time to eat.



How we fished nights before the bivvy! Bob at a carp lake in 65



The original bivvy as mentioned in 'A Century of Carp Fishing'
Sides have since shrunk over the past 56 years!

remained in position in Ron's design, so that the green metal bed chairs that we all used would not fit in too well, so I devised a shelter whereby the centre pole could be taken out on erection (if you'll excuse the term)! My design used 8 metal tank aerial sections cut to 48 inches, and clipped into the end of each rib. The brolly then rested on these 8 poles, and the centre pole could then be removed. One of the eight sections was used as a door and hanging bags and straps used inside for storage. A 4 inch flap was sewn in all around the umbrella edge to overlap the side walls and rain just flowed off the brolly roof with ease.

We used these 'bivouacs', as we called them, right through the carp season of 1964, 1965 and 1966 at places like Rackley Hills, Claydon, Redmire and Brooklands and the waters in Surrey like Cut Mill and Send, where others fishing for carp overnight had, unbeknown to us, also been developing canvas 'brolly camps'. Alf Bull, Ken Pearce and Kevin Nash actually put them on the market in the 1970s, but I think that I was the first to call them 'bivvys' and Chris Ball, Kevin Clifford and Tim Paisley believe this as well, according to page 175 of their year 2000 book, 'A Century of Carp Fishing'.

We cooked on brass pump-up primus stoves using pink paraffin or meths and our set-ups were a real home from home with table, lamp, sleeping bags, Heron bite indicators and a small transistor radio to keep up with the cricket scores! We were real pioneer specimen hunters with all our home made tackle, no unhooking mats, green trollies, weighing gantries, slings or hair rig set ups! Baits were worm, bread, potatoes, mussels or sweetcorn, but we all caught fish, lots of them, but nothing like the size you lads are catching today. A 20 lb carp was the ultimate target, which we all managed eventually.

Fishing tackle accessories were hard to obtain in tackle shops, so we turned to Army Surplus stores which were everywhere just after the War. They were as important as a good tackle shop, and I used one in the Strand opposite Charing Cross Station and often left work in central London early to browse the wondrous items available in that store. Dark green tank aerial sections, camouflaged netting, trousers, jackets, jiffy cans, and all manner of cooking equipment and the most wonderful water bottles and storage bags. Today of course, all this gear is available at your local carp store or on line, but in 1964 there was more to tackle shops than just carp. London had 8 of the greatest of all fishing tackle shops and I visited them all on a regular basis. Dons of Edmonton, Gerry's of Wimbledon, Hardys of Pall Mall, Farlows of Pall Mall, J.Peaks of Greys Inn Road, Geoff Bucknalls of Lewisham, Dave Stuart's shop in Twickenham and Gamages department store in High Holborn, not to mention, Alan Brown, J.B.Walker and Oliver's of Turnford. Bromley, where I lived, only had hardware and pet shop type tackle shops, with the smell of hay and corn and a Ronnie Barker type character in a brown coat selling 'fork handles'! Maggots were £1- 10 shillings a gallon (£1.50), supplied in a silver biscuit tin, and we often took ten gallons down to the Royalty!"

Bob continues with this fascinating insight in to bivvies in next month's issue of the Freshwater Informer.

Bob Rolph

A productive evening for Jack and Glen!

Jack Wood and his Dad **Glen** had a very pleasant evening spinning for perch on a local river and managed some lovely looking 'stripeys' between them.



Medway Man

Bob Morris

Most readers of this column will be aware of my love of tench fishing and in particular the traditional approach - using float tackle in the margins, usually in conjunction with a centerpin. I guess that a lot of this enthusiasm goes right back to my initial experiences of fishing back in the early sixties.



FRED J. TAYLOR

Back in those days, I was an avid reader of fishing literature and in particular the weekly articles and stories written in the Angling Times by Richard Walker and Fred J Taylor. I remember that I just could not wait to get my copy each week and usually turned straight to those pages. Although I was really keen on both writers, it was Fred J. that held my attention the most -probably because he was frequently telling of his experiences with the tench and the various problems that he and his brothers were trying to solve - usually involving some form of float fishing method. I had started what I regarded as my 'proper' angling career at the age of about 12, after years of pursuing frogs, toads, newts and various other aquatic creatures. It was some time however, before I actually caught a tench and when I did it was, of course, by accident. I was extremely impressed with how hard a fish of only about 2lbs could pull and I was soon 'hard at it' attempting to refine my float tactics -usually along the lines of FJ's suggestions. Some form of what is referred to as 'the lift method' was frequently in use and I soon found myself experiencing the very same problems and frustrations that he had talked about.

Nevertheless, this set up has remained just about my favourite method of fishing ever since and is almost a sort

of 'default setting' when I am out with the float on still water. There is something almost hypnotic about watching a short upright piece of peacock quill moving from side to side amongst a frothing mass of bubbles as the tench grub around in the baited area beneath. It was usually the case (and still is) that eventually the float would rise and keel over, briefly lay flat on the surface, before sliding away and allowing a strike to be made and connecting with a good solid resistance, followed by a dogged, determined scrap. This, of course, is what is supposed to happen and fairly frequently it did and still does. Much of the time however, it doesn't. The solving or at least the attempt to, formed much of the basis of Fred J's articles and writings on the subject and recently I have dug out one of his old books and re-read it - just to confirm that float fishing for tench can often be just as frustrating these days as it was back then.



Just under 20lb - on the float



Strong tackle needed in tench swim

I thoroughly enjoyed the read and it was really fascinating to realise that he was thinking of exactly the same potential solutions that I have tried myself with some measure of success. One trick that he was able to employ, that is not open to me these days, is scaling down the tackle. It was an option in those days to drop down from 6lbs to 3 lbs in line strength to try to induce a more confident bite. The lack of carp around in those days allowed this, whereas now even the use of anything below 8lb would be a considerable risk on many of the waters that I have been fishing recently and I rarely go below a 12lb - albeit a pre-stretched nylon or a braid.

Often the, apparent, lack of willingness from the tench to pick up a bait on a hook is not down to shyness however, but more a result of how they are actually feeding and the set-up that you are using. This was a conclusion that FJ also came to and so his refinement of the 'lift method' began. I have found that bites are much bolder if a few handfuls of a sizeable hookbait are scattered into the vicinity of the float, they pick up the bait then move on looking for the next piece. If on the other hand you have filled the swim with groundbait and tiny particles, hemp, corn, small pellets etc, they are more likely to remain static and just suck and blow, and fan the bottom to waft the food items up towards their mouth.

This sort of feeding will cause a lot more movement on the float - liners/ false bites. If, in this situation, you have your shot too close to the hook (traditional lift tactic) and the line rising vertically to the float, it is very likely that the fish will find it more difficult to pick the bait up without fouling the line and pushing it away from them and they don't



Tench are likely to give false indications on the float - particularly when groundbait is being used



Bubbles near to float - but will you get a bite?



Success - a decent tench for Bob

have to chase after it in a swim full of tiny bait items. The trick seems to be adjusting the float set-up to take this into account and maybe not putting in too much feed. I could go on for ages about this technique and the various arrangements that I have tried - in fact I could write a book!

Wow! Is that the time? I got a bit carried away there! All this nostalgia is time consuming, perhaps I will talk more about these methods in a later episode. As I said, I really enjoyed reading Fred J's book again, if I am not careful I will end up living in the past - who's fault is that - I know, let's blame Bob Rolph!

*Best Fishes and Method Developments,
Bob Morris*


WANTSUM ANGLING ASSOCIATION

Our folio of delightful waters include:

River Wantsum CT7 0QN / a section of the River Stour CT3 1JB
Marshside Fishery: Homersham Lake & Scroggins Lake CT3 4EF

Day Tickets available at all venues:

RIVERS: Adult - £5 (Juniors to 16 years FOC)

LAKES:

Adults - £10 with loyalty card £7	— Juniors - 14 to 16 years - £5
Night Fishing (5pm to 7am):	Adult - £15 with loyalty card £12
Night Fishing (24h):	Adult - £25 with loyalty card £20
Juniors - (as for Day Tickets)	

Night fishing: Only by prior booking.

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

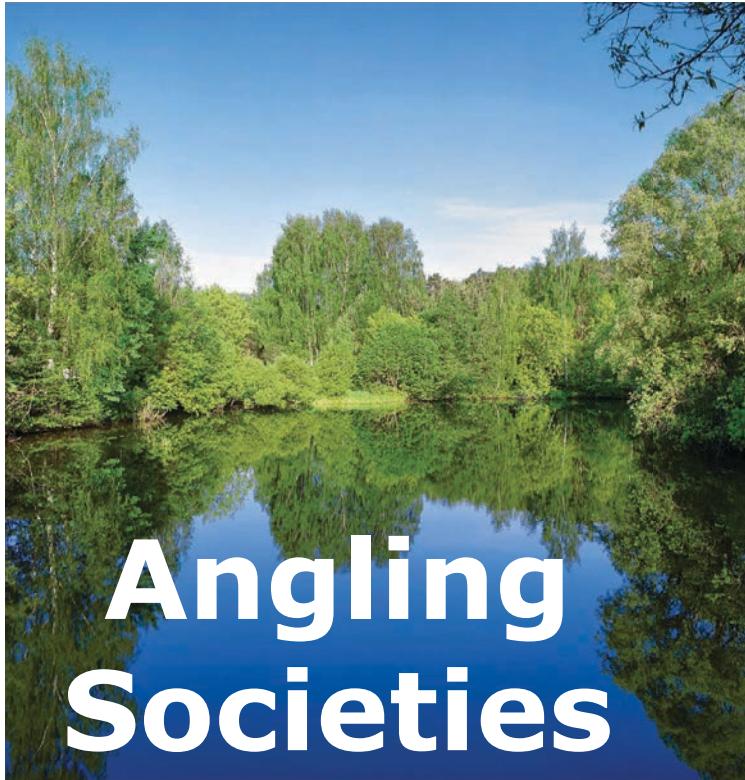
Please call 07766 623673 to book






For further details contact the Secretary:
Rob Tuck-Brown on 07484 144561
or email: rob.tuckbrown@hotmail.com
Visit us at www.WantsumAA.co.uk


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Angling Societies

The Linton Angling Society - Membership Vacancies

We are a small but friendly club with beautiful lake, 2 ponds, 5 reservoirs and over 8 miles of fishing on the River Medway, Beult and Tiese. Our waters contain Carp to 32lb, Pike 30lb+, Tench 8lb+, Chub 7lb, Perch 4lb and Roach to 3lb, including some good Bream and Eels. All year fishing, member's guest permits, night fishing allowed. We run over 30 matches a year and have a large junior section. Concessionary rates available for OAPs, Disabled and Juniors.

For further details contact: Hon. Secretary: **Chris Knowler** on 07712 622858
e-mail: chris@lintonangling.co.uk

www.lintonangling.co.uk

SOUTH NORWOOD ANGLING CLUB

**SOUTH NORWOOD ANGLING CLUB (CROYDON AREA)
WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO JOIN OUR FRIENDLY CLUB.**

We have a very good stretch of approx. one mile of the River Eden near Chiddingstone holding Chub, Pike, Silvers, Bream, Tench and Carp.

The club has an agreement with Gabriels Fishery near Edenbridge for a reduced rate of £2 for one rod per day.

We also have the privilege to fish 3 well stocked lakes and various stretches of the river Eden near Oxted and Haxted. Upon joining more information, maps and membership card will be supplied.

Adult £35 : OAP £10 : Under 18 £10

Thank you for taking the time to read this and if you wish to join please contact us for membership details.

Mr Steve Izatt

282 Kent House Road, Beckenham BR3 1JG

email: steveizatt@aol.com

Tel: 0208 778 0168



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

Hastings Bexhill & District Freshwater Angling Association

Season runs from 1st April to 31st March.

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

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

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

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

For further information please contact:

Chris Pagan 07429 655237 Steve Potter 07935 268174

Postal enquiries: S Corke, 2 The Siding, Bexhill-on-Sea TN40 1RF

hastingsandbexhillangling.co.uk



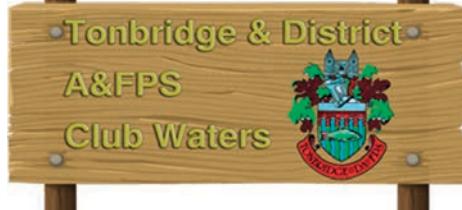
Normanhurst Lake



Wishing Tree Reservoir



River Rother



14 miles of River and 7 Lakes containing:
Carp to 52lb 4oz, Tench to 12lb 8oz, Bream to 19lb+, Barbel to 15lb 2oz, Chub to 5lb+, Perch to 3lb 6oz, Pike to 31lb 6oz, Crucians to 4lb 6oz and Grass Carp to 29lb 6oz.

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

MEMBERSHIP FEE 2020/21 SEASON

Senior Membership - £70 + £10 Joining fee

Ladies Membership - £30 + £10 Joining fee

OAP 65 years - £35 + £10 Joining fee

Junior Members £10 + NO JOINING FEE

Family Ticket (parents + children u16) - £100 + £10 Joining fee

Flood Barrier Night Ticket - £175 + £10 Joining fee

Student 16-18 years - £35 + £10 Joining fee

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

PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB

Contact Martyn on **07802 248861**

TROUT INFORMER



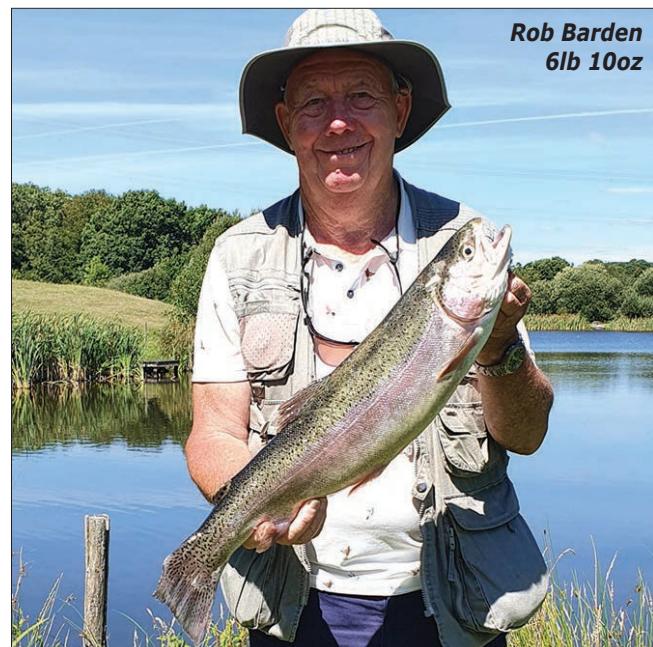
Brick Farm Lakes Herstmonceux, East Sussex

The last month has brought warmer weather, however, we are pleased to still be stocking regularly and considering the conditions, we are still seeing a good number of fish being caught.

Rob Barden landed a lovely 6.10lb rainbow out of Spring Lake and the persistent anglers have still been fulfilling their bags. Our Saturday morning openings have now moved to 6am, but late afternoon fishing is proving popular, particularly on warmer days. Successful flies are changeable given the abundance of natural food available, but a nice 3 fish bag was caught on small yellow homemade flies late one afternoon, and as always, damsels and buzzers are catching well.



The small downpours of rain recently have brightened the grass and greenery and amongst other beautiful wildlife we are regularly seeing the resident kingfisher, although unfortunately, we are yet to get a decent photograph as we are always too busy admiring it!



The 8th September marks one year since we opened the gates as the new owners at Brick Farm Lakes Trout Fishery and so for one day only we will be doing free ticket upgrades on any size ticket. For example, if you purchase a 4 fish ticket, we will give you the fifth fish for free!

Chalk Springs Arundel, West Sussex



01892 826041 / 07951 304515 www.springhilltroutwaters.co.uk



Tenterden Trout Waters Tenterden, Kent

August was too hot for trout fishing and therefore the fish had gone very deep and were not feeding. I am hoping that by the time you are reading this we will have had some rainfall and the temperatures will have lowered and our water levels increased. We will have restocked for some good Autumn fishing this month. For an up-to-date fishing report please go to our website and click on News/Fishing Report. www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk



Fishing was challenging on the back of the very hot weather but we are busy with 'staycation' bookings for our Shepherds Hut Accommodation. It has proved popular with our anglers who wish to stay and fish and for other guests who just welcome a short break away. If this is of interest to you, we are offering 20% off our permit prices if you stay in our Ghillies Hut. For more info visit "Shepherds Hut" on our website with a direct link to Airbnb.

For fishing permit reservations, please telephone to book on 01580 763201. If we don't answer, please leave your message, name and number and we will get back to you asap. This enables us

to monitor how many anglers can safely fish at any one time, allowing for social distancing. The Fishery Lodge is now open, but we are requesting that you bring your own refreshments/picnics. We are not hiring out rods, tackle, nets until we know it is safe to do so. Fishing Lessons have now commenced with Richard Stokes, our Instructor, please email richard@coombe-farm.com if you are interested in booking a session to learn the skill of fly fishing. It is always fun to learn new things in life. We have an exciting event unfolding at our Fishery on the 20 September 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. Please visit the Fishery News on our website for further information and make contact to register your interest or via our Facebook page – we will take your name/contact details and get in touch nearer the time. This event will be held outside and we are limiting spaces to 25.

When you visit our website you will find an Aerial Tour on our Home Page so you can view our picturesque Wealden setting. Please follow us on Instagram and Facebook and visit our Gallery. We are one of the Top 50 Stillwater Trout Fisheries in the British Isles 2019 and a Trout Master Water. Our Trout Masters Fish Off will be held on the 13 September 2020 and we look forward to hosting our anglers at this competition.

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. We look forward to welcoming you to our friendly fishery for some great Autumn sport in the beautiful Weald of Kent.

Tight Lines – Gaynor, Richard & Audrey

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:

- New and improved office and anglers' lodge with log burner and hot drink making facilities
- 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



Brick Farm Lakes Trout Fishery

Prices start from £28 for 2 fish
Vouchers, coaching & tackle hire available
Corporate & group bookings welcome
with food options available

Set within the stunning East Sussex countryside, Brick Farm Lakes is a friendly family run Trout fishery comprising 3 lakes stocked with Rainbow, Blue, Golden and Brown trout, from 2lb upwards, including some double-figure sizes to challenge our anglers. Set back from the road, almost in a secret valley of its own, we have a superb oak-framed lodge overlooking Brick Lake. The lodge provides a warm and welcome space offering complimentary tea & coffee for anglers, along with homemade cakes and other refreshments.

The Fishing Lodge
Brick Farm
Herstmonceux
East Sussex
BN27 4RS

Tel: 01323 832615
www.brickfarmlakes.co.uk

POWDERMILL HOLIDAY LODGES



**BRAND NEW HOLIDAY LODGE
NOW AVAILABLE!**

For further details please contact Mrs M Stacey **07831 793036**
or email: marystacey1@hotmail.com



THE NEWLY BUILT LODGE WHICH IS ADJACENT TO POWDERMILL RESERVOIR AND THE HASTINGS FLYFISHERS' CLUB IN SEDLESCOMBE, EAST SUSSEX, IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR HIRE. The lodge is well appointed with all facilities and includes 2 double bedrooms (sleeps 3), bathroom with shower and comfortable living room, kitchen with fridge, washing machine etc. Tackle storage space available.

Perfect location for fishing holidays, walking and relaxation, with all modern facilities for your enjoyment. Situated in an exclusive woodland setting and enjoying views over the 56 acre lake, which is run by the Hastings Flyfishers' Club Ltd, and is well stocked with good sized rainbow trout. Fishing starts in February through to the end of the year and the Lodge is available for hire throughout the year. Day ticket flyfishing through the Club at discounted rates in peaceful surroundings is available.

The property is in an area of Woodland Trust property which includes enjoyable walks and scenery, particularly woodland bluebell and wildflower walks.

*The Hastings Fly Fishers'
Club Ltd*



Powdermill Reservoir

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 (Bailiff 9:30 to 10:30 am)
www.hastingsflyfishers.co.uk
Email: mail@hastingsflyfishers.co.uk

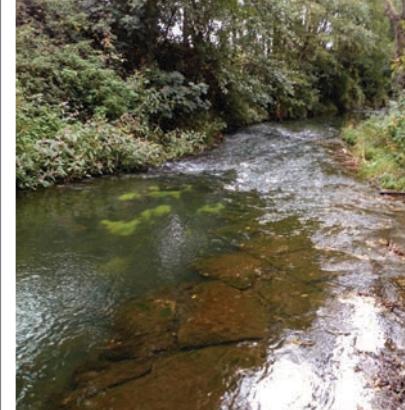


Teise Anglers and Conservation Society

River trout and grayling fishing
on the River Teise in Kent

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

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



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

www.teisearnglers.org.uk

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

Email:
teisesecongler@gmail.com

Telephone: 07960 518738

Lure Fishing

Brick Farm - Herstmonceux BN27 4RS



Well Lake

suppose? It was a very hot day and some of their regulars were already returning to the fishing lodge to weigh in their catches. On interrogation the successful tactics ranged from Di5 and Di7 fast sinking lines with buoyant flies such as Boobies and FAB Blobs, or Floating lines with long leaders and weighted Damsel Fly, Cats Whisker, Montana or Orange Tadpole.

There are four lakes at Brick Farm; two are small spring fed pools. The clear water of 'Well' and 'Stag' provides plenty of intimate fishing opportunities and overlook the two larger lakes. 'Brick' the original lake and the newest 'Spring' lake which offers plenty of room and more importantly, deep water. 'Spring Lake' was built especially with "hotter" springs and summers in mind. With depths up to twenty five feet there's plenty of deep, cool water for the trout to seek out.

Not surprisingly most of us headed for the 'Spring Lake' and I was relieved to see a rod bending as I arrived. There was very little cloud cover and only a slight breeze, which frequently changed direction as it swirled down the valley. I'm no fan of resorting to sinking lines so it's always my last resort! Fortunately, droppers are allowed at Brick Farm which is very enlightened; most small waters restrict you to fishing a single fly. For those of you unfamiliar with fishing two or three fly leaders, the object of using a "team" of flies is not to catch three fish at a time, like mackerel fishing, but rather to control your flies depth and speed.

I chose to fish a "team" of three superglue Buzzers attached to a fifteen foot leader. I cast across the breeze and allowed my flies to sink on a slack line, this saw my point fly fishing very close to the bottom, while the smaller dropper flies were staggered through the depths at five foot intervals. I then ultra-slowly inched my flies back towards the bank, watching for any little twitch of the line or feeling for any extra tension indicating a take. This style of fishing takes a lot of patience and confidence to fish effectively. You either love "buzzer" fishing or hate it! I know a lot of very competent anglers who just find "Buzzer" fishing too frustrating and slow for them, they usually concede defeat quickly and return to more active retrieves and flies to suit.

A few anglers on the opposite bank were catching on Buzzers so I knew I was on the right method. All I needed to do was find the right depth. After casting out, I counted my flies down before starting the retrieve. A count of forty saw my point fly occasionally grabbing the bottom as the tip of my floating line was dragged under by the weight of three heavy flies and fifteen feet of fluorocarbon. It didn't take too long before I had my first fish



GUIDED LURE & FLY FISHING DAYS WITH ANDY LUSH

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

LURE FISHING Fish a variety of reservoirs for Pike, Perch and Zander. These days are suitable for beginners and improvers who wish to 'fast track' their way to success. Learn more about lure fishing, the use of boats and fish finders, or just have a FUN day with an experienced Predator angler.

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

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

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

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



Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman Lure Fishing

I was invited to join Charles Jardine and a few friends at Brick Farm near Herstmonceux. This is a very popular trout fishery that I'd only fished once before. I have to confess that my preference is for boat fishing on large reservoirs. I have rarely visited small stillwaters since I discovered a passion for large bodies of water many years ago. Times change and with more time for solo trips I'm finding a renewed appetite for revisiting some of my old haunts closer to home. Brick Farm is likely to see me during the winter months when trout fishing can be spectacular, and their lodge is a welcome retreat when you need to shelter from the weather.

Charles was having an informal get together, and a raffle to raise funds for a charity very close to his heart, "Fishing for Schools". Charles is very passionate about this cause and the money raised helps fund fishing lessons for 10-16 year olds. The charity helps pupils re-engage with education while building their confidence and self-esteem as they discover the joys of fishing. For more information visit the Countryside Alliance website.

Our hosts Danni and Phil Axell were on hand to meet and greet us and inform us of their "safe distancing" protocol, the new normal from now on I

suppose? It was a very hot day and some of their regulars were already returning to the fishing lodge to weigh in their catches. On interrogation the successful tactics ranged from Di5 and Di7 fast sinking lines with buoyant flies such as Boobies and FAB Blobs, or Floating lines with long leaders and weighted Damsel Fly, Cats Whisker, Montana or Orange Tadpole.

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Spring Lake

on the middle dropper, a Claret Buzzer. It's amazing how confidence grows and you know it's only a matter of time before another fish will succumb to your flies. I continued, brimming with confidence, only to miss the next take. I noticed the fly line twitch, but felt nothing, after that I was much more attentive! I altered my "count down" and depth occasionally each time either the breeze picked up or some cloud cover appeared. Either of these changes saw the fish move up in the water column. By angling my casts across the wind and maintaining tension in the line, I could swing my flies into the nearside shelf where my final two fish were sheltering. With few exceptions, everyone caught a few fish which just shows how well managed Brick Farm is.

Hartley Lands Fishery - Cranbrook TN17 3PS

I was booked for a day's carp fly fishing guiding by a group of anglers I knew from Bewl Water. The heat had finally got to them and the trout and they had decided to try their hand at carp fly fishing. A couple of years ago I'd suggested to Peter Thomason, the group's leader, that rather than sit the summer out, he should try fly fishing for carp. Carp enjoy the warm weather and I defy anyone not to get excited when they see these awesome fish on the surface. A couple of hours in the evening is light relief from the heat of the day and is so much fun too. The seed had been sown and now Peter, Keith Nicholson and Micky Heasman were up for the challenge. My job was easy, all I had to do was explain the tackle and tactics, fingers crossed the fish had read the script!

We were in the middle of a "heat wave"; 30 degrees 'C' everyday preceding our trip. These weren't ideal conditions for carp fishing, but we still had a chance, fishing on the surface. I wasn't confident we could pull off our quest, but you never know until you try. I'd suggested Hartley Lands as it's close to Peter's home and I knew it was a good surface water. Last season, I'd had two amazing afternoons fishing there, in fact I'd caught so many fish on one occasion I'd packed up early, I was so exhausted by all the action! As I've mentioned previously, there has been so much more angling pressure on all the day ticket waters I've visited this year. The fish have been spooky everywhere I've been so far, having been chased from "pillar to post" by other surface anglers.



Mick Heasman's first carp on the fly

We broke for lunch, cheese and wine, very civilised. While the others compared notes, I regularly topped up our swims with floating pellets. I knew that resting our swims, but feeding them, would see the fish re-gain their confidence and trigger them to feed more eagerly, well that was the plan. And it worked; my swim was alive with feeding fish when I returned. A couple of quick fish rewarded me for my extra effort. Everyone managed a few more, Keith was "top dog" but it was so good to see how much they'd all enjoyed their first encounter with carp and how much they'd learned in such a short time.

Three happy anglers left for home already planning their next foray. This left me to fish the last couple of hours alone. What a change, I was able to concentrate the fish in front of me now my swim was the only one being fed. Five fish in an hour saw me extremely happy. As the light faded, I reluctantly packed up and headed for home, very tired but satisfied.

Til' next time. Andy

Andy offers a guiding service for those who want to learn more about 'Lure Fishing' & 'Fly Fishing'. To book a day email with your contact phone number and Andy will call you back and discuss details.



A welcome sight...

I managed to secure four swims close together so I could keep an eye on everyone. First thing I talked tactics and tackle with each angler. It really helps when you've got anglers who understand the importance of "presentation". The slight breeze was now blowing into our bank and the loose feed we were firing out at regular intervals was starting to do its magic. The water's surface started to boil with hungry fish, "game on". I'd instructed everyone to feed sparingly and at regular intervals. This would keep the fish searching for food, and hopefully they would find our flies! Peter "Thomo" was first into action shortly followed by Keith Nicholson. The fish were really up for a feed which was a relief. I could relax and enjoy the fishing and the banter. It was a bit of a blur after that as Keith started to catch and miss loads of fish while "Thomo" and I managed an occasional fish. Micky was surrounded, Keith to his left was catching fish before they reached him and I was picking off the odd fish to his right that were coming from the other direction. To his credit, Micky stuck to the task and plugged away keeping the bait going in and eventually, after several near misses and a couple of "hook pulls", he landed his first carp on the fly! I was blown away with the average size of the carp we were catching; they were all solid fish between 8lbs to 14lbs.



A nice ghost common - a reward for staying late

Sea Informer

is kindly sponsored by



Medway and Kent Sea Fishing Group
'Visit our page for chat, tips, news and members' catch reports!'



Support your local tackle shop!

The past few weeks have certainly seen some very busy beaches and given the weather, the day trippers have flocked to the coastline in huge numbers. This has made fishing 'challenging' at times unless you happen to know an 'out of the way' spot! However, the mackerel shoals have appeared with fish being caught along the Sussex and East Kent shorelines. It has been great to see many young anglers enjoying the thrill of catching a mackerel for the very first time. However, please only take what you need. The current sea temperature is averaging around 18 degrees, at the time of writing, and this will no doubt rise with the current weather conditions. The whiting are now showing in numbers after dark and the weed is still present in North Kent, however, there are signs that it is reducing. Saying that, some lovely smoothhounds have been caught with multiple catches being reported. Towards the end of the month, anglers will be looking ahead to the coming Autumn season and the change in species.

Thames report courtesy of Wayne May

Erith pier / Morrisons is producing plenty of flounders and small bass this month, beaded rigs and two hook flapper rigs are ideal at this venue, Ragworm is the favoured bait for flounder, prawn and crab cocktails for the bass and odd eel. Gravesend, both the Ship and Lobster and the promenade are fishing well, evening tides or overnight have seen better results, some sizeable bass have been caught along this stretch of river this month, with an estimated 8lb bass caught by **Ben Gold**. Flounders and the odd sole are also being caught, with regular bait changes needed to avoid the crabs. Thames estuary, charter boats are fishing better than I've seen for quite some time, with sizeable bass accounted for, and smoothhounds reaching double figures. Local kayak angler **Mat Potter** accounted for 40 plus smoothhounds over two days. Thornbacks, bass, sole and flatfish have all been caught from the beaches around Allhallows to Minster on the Isle of Sheppey. **NJ Tackle at Gravesend** can supply all your quality fresh and frozen baits and tackle. Call Nigel on 01474 353998.

Medway report

The river has been full of eels in recent weeks which have been beating the bass to anglers' baits. The crab activity does seem to have reduced, which is good news. Gillingham Pier has been busy and catches



have included bream and rays along with the odd small hound. However, generally catches have mainly consisted of eels and small bass from marks such as Borstal and Halling and further out in to the Estuary. **Medway Tackle Supplies at Twydall** offers a great range of fresh and frozen baits along with all your tackle requirements. Call Lewis on 01634 475260.

Sheppey report courtesy of Sheppey Angling

Shore fishing has remained good with evening tides being more productive. Still hounds being caught but their numbers are reducing and they will soon move offshore. The rays appear to be moving in once again with anglers catching increased amounts. The bass are feeding well and some better fish have been caught along the Leysdown stretch. Lots of eels about as well so an encouraging sign. However, very few flatfish about at present. The boat fishing has been good with local boats catching good sized hounds, lots of rays and bass. Call **Sheppey Angling** for all your bait and tackle requirements on 01795 661089.



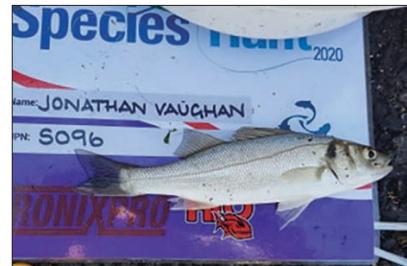
North Kent report

The weed appears to be gradually reducing allowing anglers a longer window at the top of the tide. Some great hound catches have been made with fish to low doubles. This month should see some better bass showing. Other species have included a few flatfish, dogfish and eels. **Absolute Tackle at Herne Common** stocks fresh and frozen baits and a great variety of sea tackle, however, please pre-order your bait to avoid disappointment. Call 01227 636724.

Thanet report courtesy of Fisherman's Corner

The warmer Summer months can mean harder fishing as some of the species we have will move out in to deeper water. There is still good fun to be had scaling down hooks and baits and targeting mini species. There is a variety of these little critters that will still provide a few bites even on the hottest of days and with the inshore water temperature as hot as it is, we may see

some different fish move through such as bream and golden grey mullet. **For any information about fishing around Thanet contact Fishermans Corner at Ramsgate on 01843 582174.**



Deal report

The pier remains closed to anglers due to damage on the lower deck. Anglers have been fishing the local beaches and found mackerel, pouting, whiting, a few hounds, dogfish and bass. This month, depending on the weather, will continue to see the mackerel and then the whiting and dogfish will move inshore in numbers. A good month for seeking out the larger bass. **Contact Channel Angling Deal, by the pier entrance, for all your bait requirements on 01304 373104.**

Dover report courtesy of Channel Angling

At present the Admiralty Pier remains closed, but Shakespeare beach is open and has been very busy. Mackerel have been caught along with hounds, dogfish and bass. A little further along, Samphire Hoe

has seen a lot of anglers with many fishing the venue for the first time. Catches have included wrasse, mackerel, bass, pollack, garfish and pouting. The wall is very snaggy, but can still be fished using a 'rotten bottom' rig, float fishing or spinning. There is ample parking with toilets and cafe on site making it a comfortable family venue. **Channel Angling offers a wide range of baits as well as meeting all your tackle requirements. Call 01304 203742.**



Hythe area report courtesy of Steve Bates

Sandgate, Hythe and Dymchurch have been fishing well given the recent very hot weather, with thornback rays, bass and the odd plaice still showing. Mackerel have been plentiful, with shoals showing up over HW although the odd mackerel can be picked up at LW as the tide starts to flood. The new sea defences going in along the ranges is stirring up the bottom nicely and with all the commotion going on, the fish do not seem to mind as anglers are still catching plenty. Evening into night time is proving to be the best time to go and will see you catch plenty of the usual suspects, whiting, dogfish, dabs, rays, bass and early sole. Baits and rigs doing the business, 2 hook flappers, 3 hook short snood clipped down rigs baited with fresh or frozen worm tipped with squid or small pieces of sandeel and pulley droppers fished with bluey or whole squid will see you catch plenty of fish. **Local tackle shops are Dens Tackle 01303 267053 and Best Buddies 01303 487144** Please stay alert, keep safe, and stay well. Tight lines, Stevie.



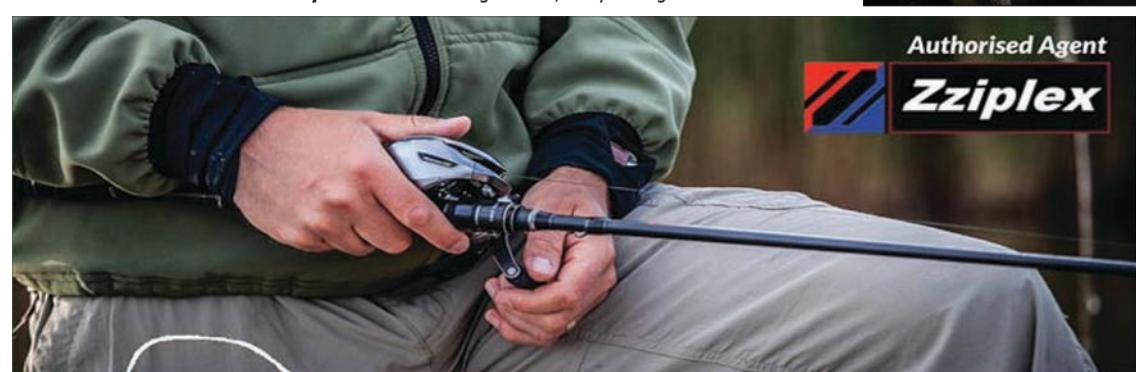
Eastbourne report courtesy of Tony's Tackle

This month has been fairly quiet along the Sussex beaches although, as predicted, some good sized soles have been landed from Langney Point and White Horses. Lug and fresh ragworm being the number one baits. The smoothhounds seem to have gone, apart

from a few pups, thornback rays also seem to have moved on. **Gerald Sargeant** is performing well on the match scene locally with some good results. There has been a good turn out for the evening matches. **Keith Erridge** is also doing well. **Darren Bond** landed 10 soles at Langney Point up to 1lb plus last week. Small hooks, size 3s, are the order of the day and don't discard half a lugworm. There were bream and eels landed this month and some excellent bass catches. The Notes landed some good size bass from Beachy Head, plaice, a few rays and the odd cod from the Light Tower area. Best baits are mackerel, fresh lug and sandeels.

Don't forget to order your bait for shore or boat from Tony on 01323 731388 or 07821 514853 or visit www.tonystackle.co.uk. Tight lines, Tony Kirrage.

James Clifton 11lbs 7ozs
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SAM'S FISHING JOURNAL

courtesy of Sam Cox

One Sea Anglers Search for Common Sense! (Part Two) The Good Old Bad Days

We tend to look at the past through rose tinted glasses, as we get older we think of the years behind us as 'the good old days'. Were these days as good as we remember?!

A subject that I have been pondering is were the old days as golden as we think, and is the fishing nowadays as bad as I fear it is. To analyse this, I will be looking at some of the most commonly targeted species.

Cod are almost non-existent in the southern North Sea, and have been for the past five or so years. Back when I was a lad most winter boat trips produced decent catches of cod, with many double figure fish included. The cod are a fast growing species and A ten pound cod can be as young as five years old, and yet the minimum landing size for cod is a pitiful 35cm. Small cod hold little value commercially, so when a catch of small cod is made commercially, the fish are put into the hold as a stand by. The skipper will then make another tow hoping for a larger stamp of more valuable cod. If he successfully catches a haul of larger fish, the first lot are dumped over the side, obviously dead. This process can be repeated multiple times, so no common sense to be found in this practise.

Back in the early 70s when uptide and boat casting were being developed, good catches of thornback rays were made in the Thames Estuary every Spring. With the increased use of fixed tangle nets and fixed trammel nets, the thornbacks quite quickly decreased in numbers. In my father's last year as a charter skipper so low were the numbers that we would consider ten thornbacks a day as a good catch. As thornbacks are members of the sharks and rays family, which includes many endangered species, the amount that commercial fisherman were allowed to take (quota) was dramatically cut. This has led to an explosion in thornback ray numbers. They are now so prolific that recreational sea anglers often catch large numbers from the shore. Thornbacks used to be a fish targeted in the Spring time, they can now basically be caught all year round, with charter boats catching numbers that even outweigh the glory days.

Smoothounds are one of the UK's top fighting fish, when caught on relatively light tackle in shallow water they will challenge even the most seasoned angler. Again in the good old days some remarkable catches of hounds were made both from charter boats and from the shore. These catches dwindled with the increased use of monofilament gill nets. Despite having almost no commercial value, smoothounds are caught as a nuisance by-catch and are often used as pot bait or just discarded dead.

However, over the past few years these hard fighting mini sharks have made a remarkable recovery, and this summer (2020) have been caught in good numbers and to a good size in areas that traditionally they just were not caught. Areas like Thorpe Bay at Southend-on Sea, normally known for school bass, flounders and eels are this year producing some cracking smoothhound fishing.

Bass were once only really targeted by a fairly small number of UK sports fishermen. At some point, chefs realised that bass tasted very good. Ironically, this coincided with the development of monofilament gill nets and the bass then sadly gained its hefty price tag.

A female bass cannot reproduce until she is at least 42cm long, even then she is not very good at it. Up until 1990 the minimum landing size (MLS) was just 26cm, then in the early 80s it was increased to 32cm. Again in 1990 it went up to 36cm, this just happens to be around the size of a fish plate! Seventeen years later, the angling lobby thought they had succeeded in getting the MLS increased to 40 cm. For those interested see link: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukesi/2007/809/pdfs/ukesi_20070809_en.pdf Unfortunately, there was a Ministerial change and the commercials made a last ditch effort to get the increase overturned and they succeeded. As commercial effort continued to increase, the inevitable happened. Scientists declared the spawning stock biomass had substantially fallen, the EU introduced a range of restrictive measures that included increasing in the MLS to 42cm.

What was the reason for 42cm? For an answer to that question we can go straight to the UK Government's own justification at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-protections-for-sea-bass> where it reads: "From next month fishermen and anglers will be prevented from catching juvenile bass under 42cm in size, giving female bass the chance to grow to an age where they can spawn. This will strengthen our stocks by creating a new generation of fish for us to catch more sustainably."

Given that no female bass has been found to be sexually mature at less than 42 cm, the MLS of 26cm, 32cm and 36cm aided and abetted a directed targeted fishery on juvenile bass for many decades which is precisely what recreational anglers objected to. Now, the Government's justification for a 42 cm MLS is to give females a chance to spawn, the anglers can proudly claim they had been right all along but that is small comfort to those of us who have experienced a catastrophic decline in the quality of their fishing.

Furthermore, when the MLS was increased to 36 cm in 1990, a concurrent measure was also introduced that set the minimum mesh size of gill nets to 90 mm, scientifically calculated to tie in with the new size limit so as to minimise the capture of undersize fish. However, when the size limit was increased to 42cm, no change was implemented to the mesh size legislation and so some fishermen continued to use mesh sizes that captured fish below 42cm which were then either discarded or illegally landed and sold.

The mesh size legislation has now, some five years after the 42 cm size limit was implemented, been increased to 100 mm which is still inadequate to protect bass less than 42cm. In any case, is the minimum landing size of 42cm sufficient? Such a fish is 6+ years old and weighs just 1¾ pounds. Bass can live for 30 years and weigh over 20 pounds.



Bass need a sea temperature of nine degrees to spawn. Climate change has given us shorter warmer winters, this has led to there being more bass in the sea now than ever before. However, due to the horrendous mismanagement of OUR fishery for at least four decades the majority of the bass are small.

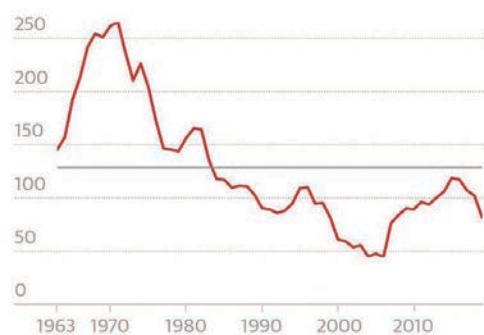
A commercial fisherman in the Blackwater Estuary found a large bass spawning ground, he boasted to myself about massive catches of large bass, many over the British rod caught record. Over the years the amount off bass he catches on these grounds have greatly diminished. He once said to me "I just don't understand where they have gone". I know exactly where they went, Billingsgate fish market is where most ended up.

Sea fishing is recovering in some species, but the good old days were not so bloody good, as it was at this time when commercial fishing technology and methods started to become way too efficient!

North Sea cod stocks have fallen by 31% since 2015

Thousands of tonnes

■ Spawning cod ■ Average



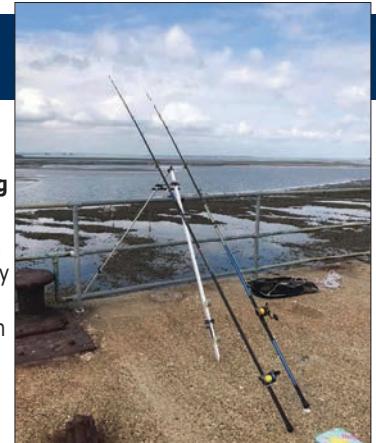
Guardian graphic. Source: ICES

OUT AND ABOUT WITH ANDY by Andrew Cook

Given the reports of hound catches from the other side of the estuary recently, the plan was to 'go TOWIE' at some point, so today seemed a good time to do it. A six metre tide at Southend swayed it, having been told that it fished well above a 5.5. I did consider a shorter trip to Canvey where hounds have been coming out in equal volume, but the bigger hounds being landed at Shoeburyness swayed my decision.

So, up at 11:30pm after a couple of hours shut eye. At that time of the morning, I'm looking at an hour's travel, (HW 04:02). Halfway down the A13 and something is nagging me, then I groan internally as I realise what it is. I've left my bag with all my lighting in the shed. It's either try and fish from the torch on my phone, or turn around. I opted for the latter which was just as well because by the time I'm on the mark by Uncle Toms Cabin at 2am it's pitch black, I wouldn't have stood a chance with no lights!

There's another guy fishing there, turns out to be Barry Millard from the Thames and Estuary group. Surprisingly, the wind is coming from the South and is gusting to 20 mph which is putting a reasonable amount of chop on a coloured, but not chocolate flooding tide, (it weakened to SW on HW).



Just one rod for this short session, pulley rig with rag and peeler combo. First few chucks nothing doing, then approaching HW I get a big slack liner that results in nothing. That's around six slack liners in the past month and not a single fish beached from them. The weed appears pretty much immediately as the tide turns and my lead is getting pulled out. I do have one more bite, two fairly large pull downs which result in nothing. So with daylight in full flow at 5:30 I call it a day to get a little sleep in the car and grab a bite courtesy of a 'McMankies' double sausage and egg McMuffin and a large cup of milk and supposed caffeine!

Round 2, same town, but this time it's Barge Jetty about a quarter of a mile East of the first mark. I'm happy to see that the gate is open, (this is MOD property) and they do regularly turf people off and lock the gate, normally due to the dangers posed for 'tombstoners'. It's just before low water and after getting the rods set up, I spend some time scanning the exposed ground in front of me. It's a labyrinth of channels and gullies with sand, mussel beds and mud. With it being a big tide, the Mulberry harbour about a mile out is accessible to explorers and I can see about a dozen people milling around it. The tide starts to slowly flood which results in the specks in the distance starting to make their way

North West and to the shore. Then I notice a group of about nine people walking out to the structure and in that split second I knew by instinct exactly how the next hour of their lives would unfold. The tide starts to flood through the East and West channels fast, large areas of sand and mud is disappearing in minutes and the water is boiling where both channels meet, but still the 'nonchalant nine' are exploring the structure. I call the coastguard and 10 minutes later there are two specks quickly making their way out on foot. By the time they have made contact with the sightseers, the dry ground they walked out on has disappeared. I then spend the next half an hour watching a group of people following the two coastguard officers back to shore, at some points up to their waists. Another 10 minutes and I reckon it would have been a lifeboat job.



Anyway, the water is hitting the jetty so it's baits out for round 2, one rod alternating frozen hermit and rag worm, the other with fresh peeler. A couple of small taps early on but nothing of any size I would have thought. Around 1:45 and I'm baiting up the crab rod when the old Slosh starts singing like Tony Montana's machine gun. Lifting into the fish, I get one pull back then it seems fairly easy to winch the fish in. 'Ray' I'm thinking. But 20 yards from the jetty all hell breaks loose, the fish is darting everywhere, stripping line, trying to go under the jetty and refusing point blank to have its head raised. This goes on for about five minutes until I finally have a hound of around 8lb on the surface. A fellow angler grabs my net to assist, but somehow the fish manages to swim under the net ropes and out the other side catching my line in the net. There is now no way to land the fish except slowly hoisting it the 10 feet up. I get it to the top rail and actually briefly touch it but catch it on the rail, the hook pulls and with the grace of Tom Daley at the Olympics, it enters the water head first and disappears. Gutted, but a great battle and at least I saw the fish. My fault as I hadn't weighted the net down which didn't help.

Ten minutes later and yet another slack liner results in nothing. I'm starting to get paranoid that the issue may be my novice rig making skills so I switch to a pennel on one rod and a shop bought up and over on the other. Half 2 and the next decent bite, obviously a hound but takes me straight into a snag. I give it line twice, but it's not budging so fully expecting to lose the fish I start to pull to the point where I felt a snap off was inevitable, but it comes free and after half a dozen turns the fish is still on. This one wasn't up for too much of a fight and after a much easier netting a nice Starry weighed at 9 1/2 lbs is photographed and returned.



The next hour is quiet with one more small bite which resulted in a foul hooked micro-bass. Tide turns and it is running really hard with the inevitable arrival of the weed, (only had a little after the first cast on the flood). Then the crab rod pulls down and line starts coming off the reel. I can feel the fish is smaller, but in the tide run that is steaming through it is real hard work getting it in, I have to move to the corner of the jetty and feed the rod around a pole. A few minutes later and a hound of around 4 - 5 lb is on the concrete. Again a quick picture and back it goes.

One more chuck but with the amount of weed coming through I decide to call it a day - Two hounds landed, one 'touched' and a small bass. Plenty of decent bites as well and although the missed fish is a concern, particularly the slack liners, I'm still happy.

About the mark - The jetty is just past the beach huts but some words of caution! Sometimes it's locked, sometimes it isn't, sometimes the MOD will arrive and eject you, sometimes they won't, so be prepared to fish on the beach or walk another five minutes east to another short railed platform. Parking was £8 for the entire day.



Be prepared during day tides to have a few jet skis come a little too close for your liking, and the odd teenage 'tombstoner' to arrive. They did today but kept well out of the way. You are going to get weed on the ebb on big tides and a wicked current to go with it. Unlike North Kent, this mark fishes better on big tides.

Tight lines all, Andy

DUNGENESS

Latest catch reports on www.seagullfishingtackle.com

The unknown is the weather and the fishing has been very good, and as I write this we have had plenty of mackerel. September is a magical month with so many species about as the nights start to draw in, so keep your fingers crossed!

BEACH REPORT

I have never seen the beaches so busy, they have been packed with sun worshippers, people trying beach angling for the first time, carp anglers trying the beach with the family, it has been unbelievable (almost like the cod days of the seventies). However, trying to catch fish in bright sunlight and flat seas, 30 degrees has not always been easy so good luck. Here are a few reports from the beach on my site:



Stars in his eyes for Mat

I had this report in from Mat Mayers late last night:

"Hi Tony, Headed down to the back of the boats this morning, had no bites for the first 2 hours, then this lovely smooth hound struck and put up a good little fight. Caught on crab, no worms, only other result was another dogfish, but so happy with the smoothy, it made it worth the while. I can't wait to get back down there! Take care!"



I wish I had some feathers...!

I had this report in from Neil Rodwell yesterday...

"Hi Tony. Thought I would join the crowds on Eastbourne beach today and have a go in amongst the mackerel junkies. The shoreline was filled with bait fish washed up from the mackerel shoals pushing them ashore. I had shoals of 'mackey' right under my rod tip at some points in the day. I didn't have any feathers left on me so I just sat and watched the chaos! I did manage a single vividly coloured tub gurnard all day, but it was a nice day on the shore in all. Will speak soon. Many thanks. Neil."

Always worth a last cast...!

I had this report in Saturday from Mohammad Adair:

"Hello Tony, I went night fishing yesterday at Dungeness near the watch tower and the weather was windy and raining. Many whiting around (although 70% small). I was thinking of leaving and used one of my "this is definitely the last cast" and was rewarded with a lovely sized bass. Very happy!"



You have been warned...stay safe...!

I had this timely reminder from Kenneth England.

Don't touch the dorsal fin or the gill covers! "Watch out they're about"...the Lesser Weever!

BEACH OUTLOOK FOR SEPTEMBER

Well, as I have said, it should be good late summer with so many species about, sole being the most interesting. This is the time for a big bass, and yes more whiting, but this traditionally is one the best months of the year.

BEST BAITS

Whole squid for a big bass, fresh lugworm on a size 4 hook for sole.

BOAT REPORTS

We have had some brilliant weather to get afloat with plenty of black bream action, but it has been so hot.

Here are a couple of boat reports coming into my site:

Sun, sea, plaice...and more plaice

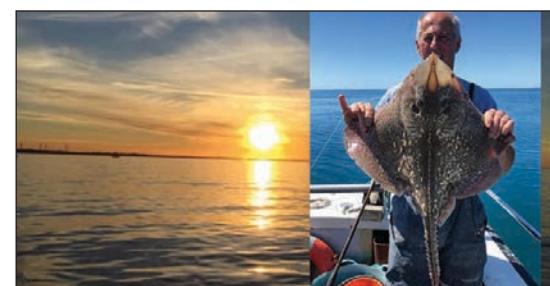
I have had a few computer problems, so I have some catching up to do. Here is a report from Anthony out on Peganina (07989778361) last week from Rye:

"Just quick report to keep dad happy!! Well the fishing, it's definitely been a case of fishing and not catching lol. It's up and down although we've had a fantastic day on the plaice today, there weren't any real monsters, but we got well into treble figures! The congers are steady with plenty of hard fighting sport although again a bit on the small side! The bream fishing is improving by the day and last year they stayed in good numbers until early November. In regards to booking, it's very, very busy with only a couple of days left in September, but we have a lot more space in October so drop me a text if you fancy a trip and I will get back to you at some point! Saying that, I might be able to do an evening trip for congers sooner as long as it's flat calm!!! Tight lines, Ant"

Nice thornback...plenty of species!

I had this report in from Kevin Hicks a week or so ago, but as I said we have had computer problems, but better late than never:

"Hi Tony, I see you have not had many boat reports lately. We went last Thursday and left early as the sun was rising. What a great day to be afloat, the weather forecast was spot on for once! We started off wreck hopping and had pollack and bass then the plan was to anchor up and enjoy the flat calm seas for once with black bream the target. It started well then the pout came and destroyed any bait that hit the bottom so time for a move. We waited till the tide turned and anchored by another wreck. We had bream for the rest of the day with a mixture of bass, pollack, mackerel, scad, skate (biggest 15lb), whiting, pout and launce. It was a lovely day to be afloat."



BOAT OUTLOOK FOR SEPTEMBER

Great time to go boat fishing, big congers, black bream even early codling and all we need is good weather and calm seas.

BEST BAITS

Make the most of the mackerel, down below cuttlefish is tougher and can withstand the attention of the smaller fish."

KENT BOAT REPORT

by Jason Parrott



The weather has played ball for most of the last month, but the fishing has become harder at Ramsgate on the whole. The hounds have pupped down and the females have moved on so now we are left with mainly lean fighting machines with fish up to 13 or 15 lbs, but mainly around 4 to 7 lbs, or to be more modern, 2 to 3 kgs.

Rigs are very basic running ledger with 4/0 Koike wide gape hooks fished as a pennel with 30 lbs bs hook link with 50 lbs rig line. Alternatively, a pulley rig with same line and pennel fished koike 4/0 or a simple bolt rig with an 18 inch hook length again with pennel Koike 4/0. Main baits are now whole squid, single lug, live prawns, frozen king prawns and live hard back crabs. Just take off the back legs so they can't bury in the sand. Skate are very hit and miss, but are still being caught on the same rigs, but with pennel 6/0 Koike wide gape hooks. I like to use 40 lbs line for this just for the dogfish wear and tear on the hire rods and just in case you get a good female fish on and hook lengths can snap due to chaffing. Baits are herring, fresh sardines or bluey just cut in half or even make in to a big flapper.

This month they have been more successful with bigger baits and hope to keep away the dogfish. Whole squid has been good, but again expect plenty of dogs before the success of a skate. Now on to the bass! We have had some good fish on the chalk just off the harbour and anglers are horrified when I stop Lady Ann 12 minutes outside of harbour, that is until we get in to the fish, then I'm the best skipper going! Unfortunately, this can be short lived as we can only fish at certain times of the tide as due to too much tide, the anchor will trip through the chalk.

Same rigs, but I like to use 30 lbs line with 4/0 koikes and a 12 ft hook length with double squid, single lug, half bluey or half a small mackerel. A lot of the bass are coming on fish baits now, but always have lug or rag in your armoury. We have had fish over 10 lbs, but mostly around the 5 lbs mark. Mackerel, wow, what can I say! I think the commercial factory ships have played a massive part in this as you have to be very lucky to find any numbers and they are very small so can't be kept. Be careful if you are thinking of landing undersize mackerel, you have been warned! Such a shame they are not in numbers as its so enjoyable for me to take families out on an evening trip to get the kids involved in our amazing sport with non stop rattling of the rod. Let's hope they show up in greater numbers this year, still time. On the slack tide, we have tried for plaice, dabs and gurnards with not much luck, but still fun to experiment.

I would like to thank all my friends and customers for their business in these hard times and people for abiding by rules onboard. If you fancy a trip onboard Lady Ann, please contact us on 07966 273650. We are on cbuk.

Tight lines and keep safe from all of us on the Lady Ann of Ramsgate. Jason

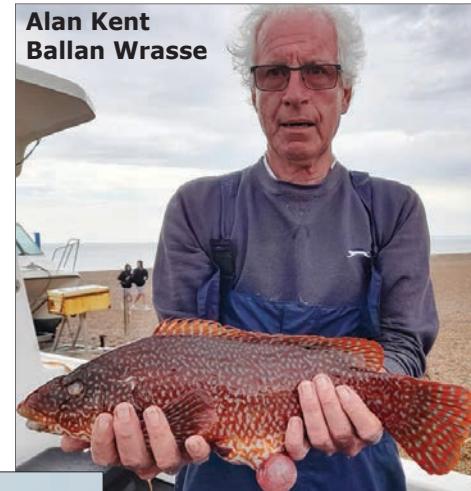
HASTINGS

report courtesy of Hastings Angling Centre

Some very hot weather and light winds have brought hordes of people out fishing. The boats have been able to get off on quite a few days and reported lots of smaller tope about and a good number of bigger ones. Black bream also about in good numbers, but no reports of big ones. Plaice and rays on the banks and good pollack and bass on the wrecks.

On the beaches, when the sea cleared out, lots of mackerel about seemingly either small joeys or nice big ones. The bass fishing on lures and baits has also been very good. Good soles being caught as the light goes.

Prospects for this month; September is often one of the best fishing months of the year, the sea is at its warmest and both the summer and winter fish are present. The big autumn tides often bring big bass and some early codling inshore. Mackerel can be prolific. Black bream and plaice at their best.



Coarse Fisheries

Beaver Farm Fishery	Eastbourne Road, Newchapel Lingfield RH7 6HL	01342 324006 / 07710 656041
Charles Lakes	Steeds Lane, Kingsnorth, Ashford TN26 1NH	07857 539785
Chequertree Trout and Coarse Fishery	Bethersden Near Ashford TN26 3JR	01233 820078
Claygate Lakes	Collier Street, Claygate, Marden TN12 9PL	07770 513448
Coombewood Fishery	Redbrook Street, High Halden Near Ashford TN26 3JH	07895 679569
Elphicks Fisheries	Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden TN12 8EL	01580 212512
Frant Lakes	Hawkenbury Road, Bells Yew Green Tunbridge Wells TN3 9AP	01892 616424
Furnace Brook Fishery & Fish Farm	Trolliloes, Cowbeech, near 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 Near Tenterden TN30 7HA	07941 176205
Mousehole Lakes	Maidstone Road, Nettlestead Near Paddock Wood ME18 5HR	07725 783405
Orchard Place Farm Fishery	Pearsons Green Road Paddock Wood TN12 6NY	01892 838576 / 07568 176058
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 Angling Centre	Wylands Farm Powdermill Lane, Battle TN33 0SU	01424 893394

Trout Fisheries

Brick Farm Lakes	Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux BN27 4RS	01435 830835
Chalk Springs	Park Bottom, Arundel BN18 0AA	01903 883742
Cinder Hill Fly Fishing	Membership available from email: r.nathan@btinternet.com	01892 770903
Hastings Fly Fishers Club	Powdermill Reservoir Reservoir Lane, Sedlescombe TN33 0PJ	01424 870498
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

Tackle & Bait Supplies

Absolute Tackle	12 Wealden Forest Park Herne Common CT6 7LQ	01227 636724 / 07809 330854
A.R. Tackle	8 Castle Street, Hastings TN34 3DY	01424 422094
Bodle Angling	Cuckfield Road, Burgess Hill RH15 8RE	01444 247757
Bankside Baits	Customised hook bait specialists www.banksidebaits.co.uk	07874 347703 email: steve@banksidebaits.co.uk

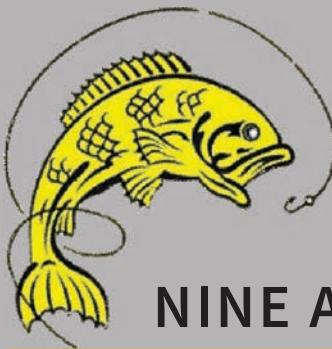
Camos Carp Cabin	11 Turner Street, Ramsgate CT11 8NJ
	01843 581784
Channel Angling	158-160 Snargate Street, Dover CT17 9BZ
	01304 203742
Crowborough Tackle	Shop 2, Lexden Lodge, Crowborough Hill Crowborough TN6 2EG
	01892 667671
Dens Tackle	73 Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6JN
	01303 267053
Eastbourne Aquatics	19-21 Seaside, Eastbourne BN21 3PP
	01323 730635
Henfold Bait & Tackle	Henfold Lakes, Henfold Lane Newdigate, Dorking RH5 4RW
	07956 043922
Hooked On Green	Unit 2, Bellbrook Industrial Estate, Bell Lane Uckfield TN22 1QL
	01825 760139
Jack Frost	Reynolds Place, West Green, Crawley RH11 7HB
	01293 521186
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
	01474 353998
Orchard Tackle	58 High Brooms Road, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9DB
	07494 670328
Polegate Angling Centre	Unit 7, Birch Industrial Estate Eastbourne BN23 6PH
	01323 486379
Pinions	431 London Road, Ditton, Maidstone ME20 6DB
	01622 718580
Sheppey Angling	Unit 5, Regis Business Park, New Road Sheerness ME12 1HA
	01795 661089
South London Angling Centre	286 Lee High Road London SE13 5PJ
	0208 852 4451
Sues Tackle Cabin	The Spice Warehouse, Rye Harbour Road Rye TN31 7TE
	01797 225015 / 07980 290247
Tony's Tackle Shop	211 Seaside Road, Eastbourne BN22 7NP
	01323 731388
Trade In Tackle	Maidstone Road, Wateringbury ME18 5EH
	01622 814296 / 07941 085011

Angling Clubs & Societies

Bromley (Kent) & District AS	PO Box 895, East Grinstead RH19 9ND
	email: bdas-kent-enquiry@bdaskent.co.uk
Hastings Bexhill & District	Postal enquiries to: S.Corke, 2 The Sidings, Bexhill On Sea TN40 1RF
	Chris Pagan: 07429 655237 Steve Potter: 07935 268174
Linton Angling Society	Chris Knowler: 07712 622858 or email: chris@lintonangling.co.uk
South Norwood Angling Club	0208 778 0168
	Enquiries to: Steve Izatt, 282 Kent House Road Beckenham BR3 1JG or email: steveizatt@aol.com
Teise Anglers & Conservation Society	07960 518738
	Further information at www.teiseanglers.org.uk
	Membership enquiries to email: teisesecretary@gmail.com
Tonbridge & District A & FPS	PO Box 131
	Tonbridge TN11 8WB Martyn: 07802 248861
Wantsum Angling Association	Rob Tuck-Brown (Secretary) 07484 144561 or email: rob.tuckbrown@hotmail.com

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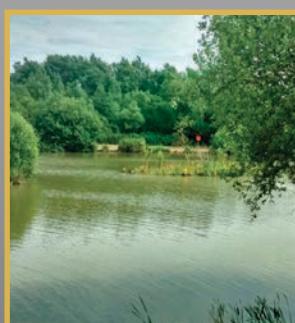
Day Ticket: £15 for 2 rods / £20 for 3 rods
24 hours: £30 for 2 rods / £35 for 3 rods
48 hours: £50 for 2 rods / £55 for 3 rods

KINGFISHER LAKE

Day Ticket: £12.00 for 2 rods / 3 rods £15
(3 rods at the discretion of the bailiff)
24 Hours: £25 for 2 rods / £30 for 3 rods
36 Hours: £35 for 2 rods / £40 for 3 rods
48 Hours: £45 for 2 rods / £50 for 3 rods

SWIFT LAKE (Match/Pleasure)

Day Ticket: £7 for 1 rod / £10 for 2 rods



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