FRESHWATER FORMER

plus JUNIOR INFORMER pages 27-28, TROUT INFORMER pages 37-41, SEA INFORMER pages 42-49











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

With the clocks now having returned to GMT we are now in that part of the year when many anglers pack their gear away until the Spring. With shorter daylight hours and cooler conditions, many feel that they will wait until the sunshine returns (!) before venturing out once again. However, as many will testify, this time of year can bring many rewards for anglers whatever their discipline. The predator anglers are finding some great pike and perch and carp and coarse anglers are discovering empty banks and fish in prime condition resplendent in their winter colours. The rivers have recovered much of their level and some great roach and chub fishing is to be found on the many waterways coursing through the region. Sea anglers are catching some great bass and even a few codling and plaice are still being caught from the beaches on the south coast! Oh and should I mention the whiting ...? Our trout anglers are also catching some wonderful looking fish in absolutely 'tip top' condition. If you are thinking of giving up fishing until next year, you may wish to rethink your plans!.

For those of you who follow the magazine's Facebook page, you will be aware that I have been doing some decorating! I started back in the summer during the national 'lockdown' and completed the downstairs of the house including a new wooden floor throughout. With restrictions being eased, I hung up my brushes to return to the magazine promising Mrs Reed that I would do upstairs in due course. With the later deadline for this edition, I found myself with a couple of 'extra' weeks in October so I duly completed the decorating task. Thankfully, the job is now complete! Mrs Reed is delighted and I must confess to being just a little bit pleased with my efforts.

I reported on the Facebook page the sad news that the Anglers Mail was to cease production at the end of October. Many of us were weaned on both the Anglers Mail and Angling Times and eagerly awaited each week's paper. With the recent demise of Carpworld, the angling world has suffered some significant casualties this year! It is strange that the Freshwater Informer continues to grow and is stronger and more popular than ever. The magazine fills a 'niche' in the publication market and is based on local anglers and venues so readers can both relate and contribute to the content. I am incredibly proud of the reputation that the Informer enjoys among the readers and the angling trade.

The next issue of the magazine will be the December (Christmas!) edition! It hardly seems possible that another year has almost passed us by! Many will be glad to see the back of 2020 for obvious reasons! Please see the bottom of this page for the December deadline.

Enjoy your fishing, Barry Reed

The Freshwater Informer

6 Meadow Way | Wouldham | Rochester ME1 3GR e: barnic@btinternet.com

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COPY DEADLINE for DECEMBER 2020

MONDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2020

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Elphicks Fisheries Horsmonden, Kent



Alastair O'Brien - 47lb 15oz North Lake 08.20



Lawrence Harris - Plantation Lake 10.20



Adam Honeysett - Plantation Lake 09.20



Gregory Baker - Prairie Lake 08.20



Graham Smith - Prairie Lake 10.20 PB



Ashley Knight - 10.20



Charlie Cannings - 30lb Kettles Lake 09.20



Des Foreman - 31lb Prairie Lake 09.20



Sam Knapp - 38lb Westend Lake 08.20



Chris Mathew - 50lb North Lake 01.20







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Alex Robinson - Westend Lake 08.20

Nichola Osgood - 19lb 15oz Kettles Lake 10.20

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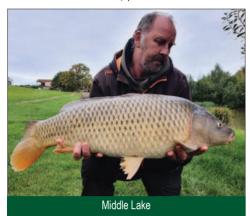
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Fishery Reports

Wylands International AC Battle, East Sussex

Wylands have had to put provisions in place to ensure the safety of the staff and anglers on site. Therefore, we are limiting the amount of anglers on our complex at any one time and ask all anglers to pre-book in advance via phone. We are working on an online booking system that should become active in the near future. BOOKING VIA PHONE ON **01424 893394.** We have had to remove all bins from our site and ask anglers to take rubbish home. Our winter season tickets are now available that run from the 1st November to the 31st March 2021, please call the office for more information.



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

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

House Lake has been a very busy lake this month due to it being close to all amenities. The lake itself has fished very well with carp being caught on all types of methods and bait.

Middle Lake Another popular lake with 20lb plus carp being caught. Corn and maggots seem to be doing the trick at the moment.

Kell Lake has fished well this month with reports of multiple high 20lb to 38lb fish being caught.

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











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New Speci A very popular lake with the anglers as the lake holds a big head of 20lb plus carp and has produced some stunning carp over the last month.

Maisies Lake With the change in the weather, the cats seem to have slowed and not many reports have come in but the carp in Maises are coming out with reports of mid to high 20lb being banked.



Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society

Barden Lake has begun to slow down carp wise but a few good fish still being caught by Society regulars. The pike fishing has been hit and miss with the gin clear water and lack of weed cover not helping, although there has been two reports of fish over 20lb. Some big roach have also been caught again during the last month with fish over 2lb.

The Old Ballast Pit has been fishing excellently, even while work has been carried out on the Railway Bank. Plenty of 20lb+ carp being caught as well as a couple of 30lb fish. Lots of upper doubles too. Venue bailiff, Kristy, has continued his fine form on his usual bait choice, catching some of the good looking residents as well as two tench hitting the 9lb mark. Other notable catches were made by Luke Chivers 28lb 4oz, Owen Worsell 16lb and Smalltail, Justin Sibley with two great commons of 29lb 4oz and 18lb 1oz, Ollie Sugden 30lb 6oz and 21lb and Karl Ellis.

The New Lagoon water level rose slightly with the recent rain although it was cold, there were still some good reports coming in. Plenty of tench to 6lb and carp to 8lb and bream to 6lb+ still being caught.

River Medway has had mixed results since the wet weather arrived with the river rising and colouring up. On fining down, it generally fishes very well with the roach shoaling up more, the pike are normally not far away.

Stuart Cottingham had a great bag of roach recently in a match with at least 4 fish weighing 1lb+. Jason Craven and Neal Rogers started their winter predator campaign off well with pike of 16lb,15lb and 3 other nice fish. Malcolm Holden had a surprise whilst fishing for pike using mackerel as bait, catching a decent sized chub. Match Captain Martyn Hill caught a lovely 9lb 10oz barbel in the Harry Fowler Open on the Long Reach, after photographing the fish, we realised it was the same fish he caught in a match last season!

Weirwood Reservoir The fishing during late September was fantastic as brothers **Austin** and **Russell Battell** fished two days running from the bank, firstly fishing the feeder and catching near 100lb bags each of bream to 5lb, hybrids, roach and rudd. The following day, they returned to fish the waggler with hemp and caster and both had bags of 50lb+. Nick Dann also had a session from the South Bank and experienced some of the best fishing he's ever had, including the capture of a 3lb 3oz perch.

The Society received some very sad news recently with the loss of two very well known members. Firstly after a long battle with illness, Anita Ayling and more recent, Match man Sam Davies, who was responsible for organising our local match leagues and Nationals team for many years. Sam was a great character and will be sorely missed by many.























MATCH RESULTS HOUGHTON CUP 1 - Six Arches

Simon Farrer 3lbs 5ozs Steve Edwards 3lbs 0oz 2nd Tony Hyland 2lbs 4ozs

HARRY FOWLER OPEN - Bungalows

Stuart Cottingham 22lbs 2ozs 1st Trevor Oldfield 12lbs 10ozs Martyn Hill 9lbs 10ozs 3rd 4th Lee Wakeman 6lbs 0oz £350 was raised with a raffle in aid of Macmillan

CANE & PIN - Muckstream

Pete Groombridge 1st 6lbs 8ozs Mick Smith 4lbs 0oz 2nd Bill Wicker 3lbs 15ozs



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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.

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Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

We are pleased to announce that once again we are offering our yearly membership which starts on 1st November. For info on prices please call Andy or Ben for more details. This month has again been guite hard as there has been so much angling pressure but as the temperatures drop the banks should get a little guieter which in turn will allow the fish to relax and comfortably feed a little more.

Snipe Lake 'Mr Consistent', aka Darryl Cook, has had a good few sessions which saw him bank commons at 22-12 and 28-06 as well as mirrors at 18-06 and a PB mirror of 36-02. Wayne Stewart had a common of 31lb which is the first time that fish has been caught at that weight while his buddy Arron Edwards banked a 15lb common and a 27lb mirror. Dylan Render unlocked the Snipe Lake puzzle when he banked commons at 13-08, 18lb and 23-04 and one of the stockie mirrors at 23-04, Jake Williams had a 27lb mirror, Matt Jones had two commons at 221lb and 25-08,

Dan Purkins had two commons at 17lb and 22-03. Brian Doran banked one of the smallest commons in there at 14-10, James Atfield had a couple of decent fish when he banked a 27-14 mirror and a 28-05 common, Scott Harvey banked a common of 22lb, Wes Barnes had a mirror of 28lb and last but not least Kieron Bracegirdle banked the biggest stockie to date at 24lb which was introduced into Snipe Lake at just over 16lb.













Westlake (formerly Tuscany Lake) As you may be aware, Ben and I decided to shut the lake as





the water levels were too low for anglers to safely remove netted catfish from the water but as soon as the rain came and the water levels were back up it was business as usual for the anglers that fished it. Well done to Paul Neilson who banked cats at 15lb, 21lb and a PB cat at 49lb, Steve Henry banked his first ever cat, Mark Brooks banked cats at 24lb, 25lb and 34-10 while his mate Andy Rowley had one at 15lb, Gordon Gibson banked 6 cats to 49lb and Martin Smith had a good session when he banked 13 cats and broke his PB twice, the



Jeff's Lake has seen plenty of F1's banked, some ghosties to 6lb and even a couple of tench. We held the last Open Match of 2020 and the top 3 were, 1st place Paul Barnett with 33-12, 2nd place was Pawel Lesniakk with 25-06 and 3rd place was Clive Mills with 22-04 which was great angling as that was all silvers.

first one was at 48lb and then again at 48-12.

Moat Pond has been prolific on some days and a bit tougher on others, but when the fish are on, it they are really on it. A couple of examples are Dennis Wheeler who banked 7 carp to 8-08, 3 bream and 2 tench and Tony Owen had 13 carp to low doubles.

Daughters Lake One of the lakes that has suffered due to the angling pressure, but there have been a few out. Well done to the following, Paul Adcock banked a low double mirror, Georgia Neale had a common of 10-09, Michelle and Aaron had a couple of low double mirrors, Lee Powis had a 15lb ghostie, Harrison Bell banked a mirror of 12-08, Craig Eccleton banked a grassie of 16lb and Dominic Hawken banked a small mirror and a low double common.

Eden Pond As you would expect, the tench have started to slow down as the colder water flows through the pond, but there have been some banked as well as some small carp and perch. A very well done to young Leo Camoccio who banked his first tench at 3-08.

Majors Lake has seen the pike season get under way and we have seen quite a few smaller pike banked but also a few decent ones, well done to Dan Woodward who banked one at 17-02, Danny Wood had one at 19-06 and Jon Wilson banked a nice birthday pike weighing in at 18-08. There have been some carp banked too with Chris Johnson landing 3 to 17lb, Wes Barnes had a common of 14-14 and a mirror of 19-06 and James Gibbs had a 19-13 mirror.

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





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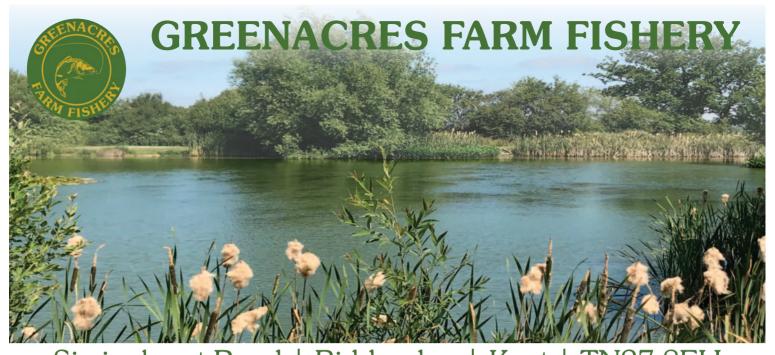


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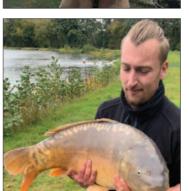


Fishery Reports

Tricklebrook Fishery Five Oak Green, Kent











catches from the New Lake - all over 30lb

Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hawkhurst, Kent







































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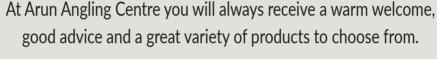
Arun Angling is located just five minutes from the A27 on the outskirts of the pretty town of Angmering. The store has it's own ample car park offering FREE parking solely for it's own customers' use only.

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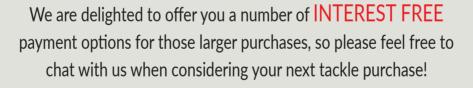
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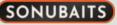




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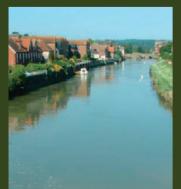












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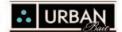


























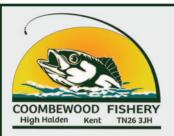












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Fine Southern mirror for Carl!

Carl Milton sent in this report of a fine fish taken from a Southern pit:

"The fish is a 33lb 4oz mirror carp known as the 'Birthmark Linear'. It was caught from a large Southern gravel pit in the Freshwater Informer catchment area. It was captured using a Steamies TNT pop-up boilie over a large bed of TNT freebies. Using a hinge stiff rig with Korda end tackle, size 4 wide-gape Kamakura hook, Iq2 hook link, 4oz distance lead, Korda lead clip and Korda dark matter tubing. I fished at 80 yards on a plateau. I was especially pleased with this one. The lake has been extra busy this year and with the limited fishing time I have, it's been



hard to get near to where the fish have been showing. Also being quite new to the water too there has been lots to learn. Some tweaks to my rigs were the final piece in the jigsaw. I remember looking at the pictures of this fish recently and thinking how much I'd love to catch it. When it rolled into the net I was over the moon. My motto is effort equals rewards and this truly lived up to that!"



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www.newclaygatelakes.co.uk

Letter to the Editor

Regular writer to the magazine, Robin Piper, wrote to me to tell me about his latest fishing trip:

"Dear Barry, It was one of those days when you are uncertain as what to do as the weather seems to dictate any thoughts of a day's fishing and meeting up with an old work mate at our club water. After a very short chat, we decided to pass on the club water and made our way to a day ticket water that I had fished some three years ago.

On arriving at the fishery, we were met with a nasty North Easterly wind! It took us seconds to have a change of position and we made for a nice natural 'windbreak' which was behind Lake 6 at Orchard Place Farm near Paddock Wood. There were plenty of swims available and with a sheltered swim selected out went my Pallatrax ½ ounce Stonze weight on a running ledger with a size 12 barbless hook. I'm always up for a change of baits just to try a change of plan so I took out my 'special formula' for the day! This consisted of a pack of (sea water) mussels, not the type you find pickled in a jar as they are far too soft. I fished a whole one just a couple of rod lengths out. I had barely put my rod in the rest when I nearly lost it as the tip shot round! The culprit was a fine mirror carp of 4 ½ lbs. As there is a 'no keepnet' rule in place, I needed to keep a count of my fish! The fish kept coming for both me and my mate and it was almost a fish a chuck with no loose feed put in either. Around the 'halfway' mark I had around 38 fish ranging between 2 lbs to 5 lbs. In the last couple of hours I decided to try my old favourite, the sliced bread. I threw a few freebie bits under my rod tip and waited. Half an hour had passed and I thought I had blown it. But then the water began to churn as the carp turned up 'en masse' to feed on the surface bread. I managed some more carp off the top with the best around 5lbs.

I estimated my day's weight to be around a conservative 80lbs. My day ticket cost me £8 and the bait was simply a couple of bags of mussels and a loaf of bread. As the day went on, thankfully, the wind began to drop away and we both thoroughly enjoyed our day at Orchard Place Farm.



Let's see what our next session brings wherever we fish!"

Kind regards, Robin Piper





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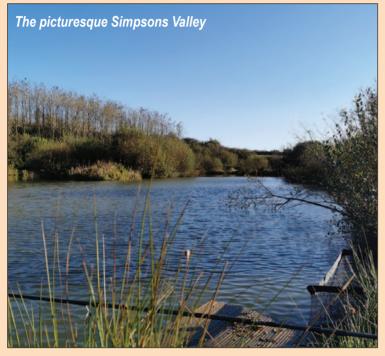


Piking at Simpsons Valley

mongst many of my cherished childhood angling memories is catching my first pike on an Ondex spinner at Repton Pond, a small pool on the edge of the village of Repton which is overlooked by the famous school that is housed there. It was a moment in my angling journey that was to get me to appreciate another species to the extent that one year I only fished for pike, with lure fishing being my preferred tactic.



My fascination with this prehistoric looking hunter has never faded since those early days and, as I got older, I started to understand and appreciate what a delicate species they are, which proves you can never judge a book by its cover! With such an aggressive look and large sharp teeth, the impression given is far from the actual truth. These fish are very sensitive to capture and must be treated as such.



pike with a high oil content and robust consistency that will hold on the cast.

Prior to casting out, I had selected a couple of likely looking spots from Andrew's knowledge of the water where I threw out several large balls of Daphnia and Maggot Crush which also contained chunks of chopped mackerel. Some may think that odd, but it is a fantastic, yet underrated, tactic in predator fishing as the ground bait pulls in the pike's natural food sources, the silver fish, and the pike can quickly home in. I would keep this going throughout the day because the more silvers I could draw into my swim the more likely pike were to turn up and go on the feed.

When predator fishing I'm not a fan of clear skies and, though



Method mix and mackerel chunks

Long story short, when I decided to move to rural north Devon a couple of the angling downsides was no rivers, so no barbel and, although there are various lakes, little hold any stock of this magnificent predator. But saying that, there is one not a million miles from my door called Simpsons Valley, where the fishery manager, Andrew Moore, has a particular soft spot for this species and created a lake, called Mallard, mainly dedicated to pike and the fish have flourished.

Low angling pressure and a good stock of silvers means that the pike have rapidly grown in size where fish are now touching that magical 30lb mark and after 13 years of living close by I was off for my first trip to the venue. As dawn broke, I drove the van onto the complex with a feeling of pure excitement of a whole day hunting a fish that had been off my radar for far too long.

I met up with Andrew and he pointed out a swim he was sure would bring me some action and, as the sun started to rise, I quickly set up my rods. Tactics were going to be pretty simple and far from over complicated. The previous night I had made up several wire traces using the new Gripz design trebles, and these would be fished under a sliding float with a 'headless' mackerel as the hook bait. Mackerel is an awesome bait for



it was comfortable, the bright sunlight was not going to be doing me any favours but, forever the optimist, I sat like an overweight heron fixated on my two floats bobbing in the breeze. Suddenly my right-hand float started to trundle off and take line from my open spool and, as my heart leapt and the adrenaline coursed, I struck into what felt like a decent fish. After a feisty battle I pulled a stunning double figure fish into the back of my net – happy times.

Some leave the take to 'develop' but I am quick to strike as I would far prefer to miss a bite than end up with a pike that has been deep hooked. Yes, I will miss a bite every now and again, but since swapping to Gripz they have really made a difference and for me fish safety always comes first.

Up close and personal, pike look even more impressive but now fish safety took over and with my mat, forceps and propolis ready to go it was a case of taking my trophy out for a few photos and quickly returning her to the lake. Fortunately, in using the Gripz design trebles they were quickly removed with zero damage and after a brief rest there was a strong flick of the tail and off she went back into the depths.

For me the one fish was all I had really aimed for, but the day only got better as I landed two more beautiful fish, smaller but still stunning and only making me hungry for more trips to this cracking



water in the coming months when colder conditions will come into play.

If you have never fished for this species, I would humbly suggest you meet up with an angler who has some experience. They are, as highlighted, very delicate but also, they do have some very sharp teeth and can be difficult to handle. With that I was glad to have Andrew, and his greater experience, at hand on this day – thanks Andrew!

Until next time, stay safe and catch more!

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



Magazine subscription service

I am delighted that the paper copy of the magazine is back! The cost of this service has, I'm afraid, had to increase and the new price is £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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This section is where you display your catch to other Freshwater Informer readers. Each month, Pallatrax will choose from the featured photos and pick their winner. The winner will receive 8 packs from the innovative new GRIPZ hook range.

The lucky angler will have a packet of sizes 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16, so will be equipped for all eventualities. This fantastic prize is worth over £40 RRP!

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



Gripz Fishing Hooks

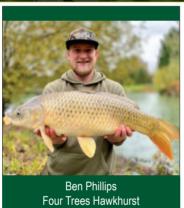
After extensive research, where the limitations of both barbed and barbless were scrutinised, there has been an obvious need for improvement thus resulting in this radical design that crosses the boundaries between what we have had and what we now have. Made from high grade Japanese wire, the key improvement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





The winner of the PALLATRAX GRIPZ Hooks Set for OCTOBER is... HARRY SANDERCOCK well done!

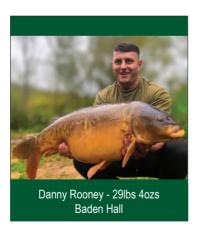


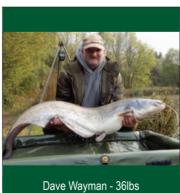












within State George Martin - 42lbs 6ozs Cottington

















Anna Edes - 10lbs Chart Lakes



Mark Day - 4lbs 8ozs River Stour





Joanne Croft - 16lbs Dartford Lake Keith Baker - 27lbs 12ozs Nickolls Pit



Colin Forwood - Oak Lake at Gabriels



Kieran Lock at Mushroom Farm



Lee Birch - 26lbs 8ozs Mousehole Lakes



Megan Baker - 20lbs



Owen Orpin - 25lbs Linton AS water



Terry Carney - 39lbs 3ozs Frant Lakes



Private water



Ami at Mushroom Farm



Jordan Bridgeman - 19lbs 12ozs Battle



Ken Kull - 47lbs 12ozs Elphicks



Ron Davis at Furnace Lakes





Frankie Fredericks - 31lbs



Phillip Davies - 27lbs Club Water



Paul Willis - 26lbs 14ozs Knightingales



Kevin Westbrook - 20lbs Iden Wood



Richard Green - 36lbs Mid Kent venue



Wayne Moore - 31lbs 6ozs Kell Lake at Wylands



Luke Morris - 24lbs 1ozs Mote Park

November 2020

The anticipation of a fishing trip! by Jay Spinks

nly a true angler knows the meaning of your first big trip to France. The immense planning, preparation and money to make sure your tackle is up to the standard for the astronomically sized beasts that reside there. We all looked forward to our epic trip, but then the Coronavirus came along, everything closed down, we went into isolation and the lads on my trip had already given up on going, but I never did! My preparations continued and the borders opened, the buzz was unreal and I was sure we would make it to France.



With the ferry booked, bait ordered and final plans made and seven days before we sailed, our plans were crushed again when our government put the brakes on and put in new rules on travel meaning none of us could go as two weeks in quarantine just didn't work for us. We all have family and jobs that we couldn't afford to risk. We all sat back and decided to make the most of our time booked off work and go to our respective syndicate waters. My club water is a crystal clear chalk pit with depths to 37ft and well stocked with dark mirrors and commons with a large plateau where the fish love to come and feed in the warmer weather so this would be my first choice area to target.



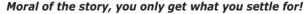
The evening before my trip, at around half past eight, I took a walk round to drop in some bait only to find my first choice swim taken. With my plans disrupted, I opted for my second choice of swim on the opposite side of the lake. Bait dropped, I went home and prepared. The alarm went off at 4am and I arrived at the pit by 4.25 am, utterly shocked that my second choice swim was taken, this was starting to be a bad trip from the start! I walked the lake multiple times with the only signs of fish in the occupied swims. I couldn't decide what to do, no signs of fish and bad weather moving in fast. I chose to just take a rod and essential items and walk the lake again. To my surprise, I found a few carp feeding close in under a bush so I lowered a bait in and waited, it didn't take long for the rod tip to bend around and the reel to start ticking away, I was in! Well I was until the fish picked up a trailing line and decided to run for the lilly pads. After a few minutes, I had no choice but to go in myself and try and retrieve my prize, but it wasn't to be. It thrashed free and spat my hook. I was gutted! However, knowing I had four days there I wasn't disheartened at all. So I set off back to my car for a change of cloths and to my surprise my second choice swim had became available. I got my rods out just in time as the

big South Westerly moved in. I got battered by wind and rain all day and night, but it was always looking good for a bite. Nothing happened through the night but at first light I was woken by the sound of my bite alarm screaming. I had my second chance, but again it wasn't to be as after a short fight, I had been cut off on the jagged rocks. I was wounded, that was two fish lost now and my session just wasn't working out it seemed everything was against me. The fish moved out and I didn't see anything else for another 24hrs. I continued to be battered by torrential rain, wind of over 40mph and blanking, most people would have gone home but not me!

The following morning I knew that I had to do something. I had to find them as they sure as hell weren't turning up in my swim! I went in search back to where I lost the fish on the first morning in the hope of redeeming myself, but nothing. I walked round the lake a couple of times and managed to find a few fish, but only smaller ones feeding in the edge on a tiny shelf. Once again, I lowered my rig in and waited a short while before I had a take. This time it wasn't getting away and after a short game of tug of war my prize slipped over the net cord and a clean 20lb plus mirror was in the bag.



I went back to my swim happy knowing that I had worked for it and I wasn't leaving with a blank. Arriving back in my swim, I noticed signs of carp in the area of my baited spots so I took the opportunity to really load it up as it was my last night and put 3kgs of bait on the spot. I went to sleep knowing I had done all in my power to turn this session around. I woke up early to see the sun rise and whilst sitting there enjoying a nice coffee, my alarm went into meltdown. This was it, my final chance! After 25 minutes of being dragged through weeds and grating on the sharp rocks, I had never been more relieved to see a fish go into my net and what a fish it was too going just over 30lbs! A prehistoric looking slate grey mirror, one of only 6 fish out of 250 to go over 30 pounds, this one was special not just the size bit, but due to my sheer determination and all the bad luck from the beginning disappeared in that moment. Fishing can be cruel, but it's the actions we take when everything seems against us that makes the difference between a good session or a bad one. That morning I drove home a happy chappy, that's all that matters.







Junior Informer





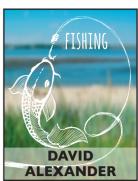
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Thank you to our Junior Informer Sponsors

Hello and welcome to the November edition of Junior Informer!

The Junior Informer pages are dedicated to the region's young anglers up to the age of 16 and we love to show to the region your angling achievements! November is now with us and many of you will no doubt be thinking about Christmas, which is only weeks away! I remember when I was younger (I have a very good memory!), I always wanted Santa to fill my stocking with fishing goodies. In those days there was no internet to browse so we had to make a trip to the local tackle shop and look at all the great tackle on display. Sometimes it is difficult for families to guess at what tackle you want, so why not suggest a tackle voucher instead? I know it is not as exciting as opening a present but you can then pop to your local tackle shop and buy exactly what you want. Don't forget that many shops have sales after Christmas, so your vouchers could go a lot further and buy you more! However, if you do know what you want, get your suggestions in to mum and dad and the rest of the family nice and early!

Keep sending us your news, reports and articles to barnic@btinternet.com or message our Facebook page!. It is always nice to receive reports from proud parents who have shared some great fishing trips with their children. So if you have had a great day out with mum and dad or anyone else, let us know so we can publish it in the Junior Informer!

Many thanks also to the many magazine subscribers for their kind donations!



JUNIOR INFORMER PHOTO ALBUM

November 2020

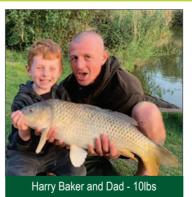
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by Bob Goble

The story of Annalise In the many years that I have fished and since becoming a

coach/instructor in fly fishing, I have taught many anglers, young and old alike and all have different abilities, but at times someone comes along that is just a little bit special.

Annalise is special and is a young lady supported and encouraged by her mum Debbie.

There was an open day at Hadlow College and Country Fair where families are introduced to coarse fishing and I was there tutoring with the fly rod. Lots of fish were caught and fun was had by all. A little while later, Annalise's mother Debbie contacted me to arrange a session on fly fishing and casting.

We all met up at Spring Hill trout fishery near Pembury early one November morning hoping the trout would play ball! However, that didn't really matter as Annalise really wanted to learn to cast a fly line. This was part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme that she was taking of which angling is one of the tasks. After demonstrating how to do it, Annalise picked up the rod and after some little tangles she started to get into a rhythm. I thought at the time that this young lady had a talent, you know instinctively what you are seeing!

Anyway moving on, I had the pleasure of meeting up with Debbie and Annalise again at Spring Hill trout fishery for another short session. Due to

> the Coronavirus pandemic and taking precautions (social distancing etc), it was I thought, going to be a little difficult to actually teach. How wrong I was! Annalise picked up the rod and started to cast the fly line and with encouragement from me, she slowly and with a few yards of fly line at a time, there was a good length of fly line out off the rod tip. It seemed as if the fly line was defying gravity, hovering in the air and forming good tight loops before her delivery would nestle down upon the water (fly fishers will know what I'm talking about!). I know of many good fly casters that would be in awe as Annalise has, I'm sure, a magical touch, with good timing (timing is everything) and good understanding of the mechanics of the cast. She will be, I'm sure, a great angler, especially in fly fishing circles. She has a great future in front of her and she is mad keen on all things fishy and sets a great example for young and old alike. She will be a great ambassador for our sport. Now you know why I love to teach!

> > $Bob\ G.$



Annalise said:

"Hello, my name is Annalise and I would like to tell you a bit about how I got into fishing.

I have always been interested in fish and underwater life, so when I had the opportunity to try out fishing at Grove Farm Fisheries, which is part of the Hadlow College Country Fair experience, I was very excited to give it a go and I caught my first fish ever, a 4lb common carp. From then on, a love of fishing was born.

Although I started with coarse fishing, learning how to float fish and using a method feeder, I also wanted to explore other types of fishing available to me. Recently, I learned to fly fish as part of my Duke of Edinburgh Award. The skill involved in casting accurately is something that definitely needs plenty of practice in order to send the line out on the water straight in front

of you. It's a much more active method of fishing with careful consideration given to the type of flies needed according to

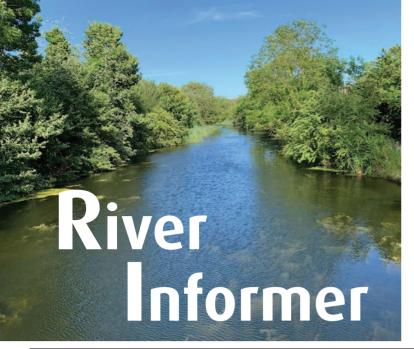
the waters you are fishing and time of year.

I enjoy every kind of fishing from trying to catch carp on bread to fly fishing for trout. I love having a bend in the rod and getting the fish in the net, and my adrenaline kicks in whenever I feel a bite!

In the future, I'd hope for some sort of career in fishing. If that isn't possible, I definitely won't give up my hobby. I'll continue to grow and learn more about the sport that I love."







Welcome to the November River Informer!

Our waterways have had a much needed and welcome 'top up' in the last few weeks. The rivers have still been fishing well despite the additional water and the region's predator anglers have enjoyed their first outings on to the banks. Kent's Mark Day is a regular reporter to the magazine and he has had some great sport on his local River Stour. Mark has sent some great photos in to us in the last few weeks and I have included just a selection in his report below. There can be no doubt that the fish are in their prime at this time of year and the autumnal colours on the banks make for a great backdrop to a catch photo! Although conditions become cooler at this time of year, some amazing results can be had if you put the work in. Very often short sessions at the beginning or end of the day can yield some great catches. I look forward to your catch photos!

Photo courtesy of Steven Dale at www.banksidebaits.co.uk

A great start to the new pike season for Mark Day

"I was on the river again recently with my dad Alan and we had 3 between us with my dad catching two. Dad was celebrating his 78th birthday that day and has now been fishing for 70 years! We went back down today with the wife at first light and managed another four out.







The pike season has started well again for me this year and I have had a lot of success on short morning sessions before work. Just a selection of the many catch photos from the recent sessions."

Ian Pamphlett - 12lbs 10ozs - River Wye

Dean
Creasey
had this
nice river
carp off
the top
during
a recent
session
on the
Teise





Bankside on the Sussex Ouse with Colin Etherington

Another tale from the Ouse!

don't think anyone can deny that autumn is well and truly upon us. By the time our readers have actually read this November edition the clock's will have moved back an hour. The trees have certainly started to shed their leaves and I've noticed as soon as the sun starts to dip the temperatures often plummet too. My preparations for the winter season are well under way now and I look forward to enjoying some short river sessions along with the occasional still water visit if the rivers are in flood. Deciding on what species to target during the winter months can often be a tricky decision. The Sussex Ouse can be



it gave me the best 'ruck' I've ever had!

very fickle to say the least during the warmer months let alone during autumn and winter. My decision to target barbel over pike often comes down to water clarity, when the river is very coloured I will tend to side with a barbel trip and if it's running very clear with little flow I will opt for a day's piking. Of course, there is a lot more to it than just that, but those are strong factors in my decision making.

October has been a difficult month on the river due to the river being so low with the lack of any current. It seems hard to grasp that the Sussex Ouse is running so low considering the amount of rainfall we've encountered during the month of October. I'm led to believe that the reason for the shortfall of water in the river is due to the water being abstracted to fill up Ardingly Reservoir. So, hopefully once the reservoir is full, we will start to receive more flow through the river. With more

substantial rainfall and the shortening of the days, I'm hopeful that the river will start to fish somewhat better than it has over the last few weeks.

There were however a couple of sessions

where I thought that the conditions looked ideal for the barbel to be feeding. We had endured a period of settled high pressure and then suddenly the winds changed from an easterly to a westerly. The barometric pressure also dropped creating unsettled weather, with little rain forecast I set my alarm for 3.30am and headed to the river long before dawn.

I tackled up way back from the water's edge so as not to disturb any feeding fish. I crept up to the river before under arm casting my bait downstream. It was pitch black as I tightened my line down to the feeder that was rammed with 3FT Twitch Lamprey & Smoked Herring pellet and hemp. As I settled into my chair and poured a cup of coffee, my rod suddenly smashed over and I was into a lively fish that took plenty of line before I gained control of the situation and glided it into the net. I was delighted to have caught a barbel so quickly, I re-baited my rod and recast.

It was relatively mild and I had a really good vibe that something else was going to happen this morning. Not long after light, I got another bite and a mint conditioned bream was the culprit. It actually gave a reasonable account of itself, kiting left and then right, whilst using its flanks to create a resistance to the current almost how a kite flies in the wind. As the sun started to climb and the day started to warm up, my wife Susy decided to pop by and drop off a pasty and sausage roll. It's been over a year since Susy had sat with me on the bank and it was a delight to have some company and enjoy a proper family natter. She doesn't fish herself, but mentioned she'd

never actually seen me catch a barbel. With that comment I upped my concentration levels and recast my feeder to the far bank. It landed perfectly, probably no more than 6 inches from a very inviting looking overhanging

bush. The leaves were falling off this bush in the gusts of wind and I hand fed a further three balls of bait tight to where my hook bait was cast. It's strange that a sixth sense in me kept telling me that I was going to suddenly get a 'wrap round' on my rod.

When fishing so tight to features it is so important to be right on your rods that I often hover my hand over the reel seat ready to bend into any sudden violent take. You cannot use a baitrunner in these circumstances

as the fish will already be in a snag before you've even considered disengaging it. It seemed that the taps I was getting on the rod tip were due to a fish picking up the bait and dropping it, almost like it knew things weren't quite right. I said to Susy, "I reckon its going to prick itself in a minute so please watch as suddenly all hell will break

loose hun". Sure enough, ten minutes later, the rod tip tapped before hooping over at incredible speed, the take was violent and when I struck I immediately knew this was a decent fish. My rod was bent almost in half as I desperately tried to turn it away from the submerged tree roots, after several seconds of serious side strain I managed to turn the fish into the main current of the river. The fight from this barbel in front of my wife was dramatic to say the least. At times I felt I was just hanging on as it ripped yards of line at a time from my reel.



Bonus chub often fall to barbel tactics and in my opinion are welcome. This one went 4lb 12oz and proper slammed my tip over!



gotta get out on the bank.



No such thing as a river too coloured for barbel to feed. I have every confidence in 3FT Twitch Lamprey & Smoked Herring pellet and paste.

FRESHWATER

River Informer



It's certainly worth getting out now that the water levels have risen substantially. I'm predicting that there's gonna be some big fish caught during the build up to Christmas. Next month, I'm going to persevere and do a few roaming sessions float ledgering for some autumn pike! Take care and tight lines,

Colin Etherington

Medway pike for James!

James Clifton has been targeting the River Medway pike and sent in these photos from a recent session.



"Hi Barry, I fished the River Medway a couple of days ago for the first time this pike season and managed a few fish, two at 10lbs and a nice fish of 14lb 4oz, all taken on deadbaits.







Busy Stour session for Alan

Alan Johnson sent in this report after a busy session on the river Stour:

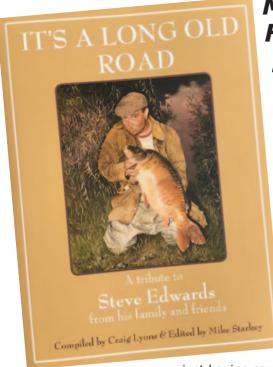
"I fished the river Stour at Grove Ferry recently and had these 5 pike out, all in a mad 2 hour spell!"







The Golden Years of Coarse Fishing by Bob Rolph



MY MEMORIES OF A MASTER CARP FISHERMAN - PART ONE

The Great Steve Edwards 1950-2010

he scene was Caesars Pool, near Keston, in about 1962, during the height of summer. I had managed to whittle out a couple of small carp, a common and a fat mirror of 8 lbs 14ozs during the long school holidays in August on a worm, fishing beside the old diving board posts on the east bank. A young kid approached me asking endless questions about the fishing here in particular "how can I catch a carp"? I was only 17 years of age myself and very green when it came to catching carp, although I had witnessed a fine catch of fish from the top pond in previous seasons, 3 carp of each species, 7 lbs, 9 lbs and 11 lbs on floating crust by a young angler called John Affleck from New Addington.

These 3, a mirror, a common and a leather, made a lasting impression on me as they lay in the wet sack draped over the outlet of the top pond all those years ago. It was 63 years ago that John Affleck became a hero of mine and I have never seen him before or since! I was no carp fisherman,

just having caught roach, rudd and perch fishing from the railings on maggot and hempseed, with the odd small tench thrown in for good measure.

This young kid from Bromley wouldn't let it go, endless questions with such enthusiasm, as he stood watching me cast a giant freelined lobworm between the thick water lily beds in the early morning sunshine. Ken Rowley was fishing by the boathouse, so I roped him in to give this new young aspiring angler some tips on how he could catch a carp. We were all just schoolchildren with endless time on our hands, so we told Steve the truth, that we caught on worms fished freelined on the hard gravel bottom between the lily beds. If the carp didn't take our baits then a 2-3 lb tench would, or even an eel of a couple of pounds in weight. I fished more in hope than skill, but Ken was a seasoned carp man and knew the ropes having already caught more fish than me from this hard but free water. The area around the boathouse was always fenced off in those days and "out of bounds" to young anglers like ourselves before it burnt down in the 1970s. This restriction always made it even more attractive to us kids, but woe betide if Ranger Sid Whitehead caught you in there!

Ken used floating crust or flake and others had been successful with maggot or stewed wheat. The par boiled potato craze didn't seem to work at Keston, even though the carp population numbered perhaps 60-80 fish up to about 25lbs. Steve Edwards became a good friend from that day onwards and we fished together at Keston and the Rookery for many years to come. His great mate at the Rookery was the bailiff there Kerry Payton, and I recently met Kerry's son Simon carp fishing at Keston. Steve joined us for the boat survey of the lake early one June morning in 1964, where he jotted down the soundings from our pole to produce the famous contour map, which has appeared now in many carp fishing books. The "bottomless" pond proved to only have a depth of 10ft 6ins in the middle, but with a hard gravel bed, the course of the old stream flooded 250 years ago now after the gravel had been extracted to build half of Georgian London! My call to a banksman that "it's got a lovely hard bottom" has never been forgotten! Try putting a rod rest in the banks of Keston Ponds! Steve was enrolled by me into the Kent Specimen Group along with Ken Rowley, Mike Winter and Jim Gibbinson. It soon became apparent that young Steve was also interested in eels and Jim told us of an expedition that the National Anguilla Club was to send to Loch Ness in a few years time, would we both like to come? Large eels had become quite a feature of our catches at Keston during the summer nights of the 1960s, and we had both caught fish up to about 4 lbs on dead baits and worms. So we were hurriedly enrolled into the N.A.C. and Jim sponsored us. Subs were paid, but we first fished the G.U. Canal for eels during the close season of 1965 to get our hand in, so to speak, for the great trip, planned for August of that year.



Left to right: Les Hudson, Geoff Fletcher, Steve Edwards 15, Jum Gibbinson 24, Arthur Sutton. Front: Bob Rolph 19

By now Steve had at last caught his first carp and tench from The Rookery lake, and wanted to expand his horizons. I showed him how to catch worms at night on the wet lawns of Hayesford Park and on the hallowed turf of Bromley Town Football club, with the aid of a bright Pifco lantern. Buckets full of huge juicy lobworms were extracted from their lairs, some well over 8 inches long, the fight they put up rivalled only by the big carp being extracted from the lily beds at the pool! We had so many worms some summer evenings that we started to sell them to Ken Brown's tackle shop in Homesdale Road for 1d per worm. He subsequently resold them to Keston anglers for 2d per worm, I later found out! This of course is 'old' money, not decimal, that didn't come out till Feb 1971. You can't beat a good old worm hunt, and many a Saturday night was spent in this unlikely pursuit, not on the dance floor, no wonder some of us never married until late in life!!

On Friday August 20th 1965, Steve and I set off for Loch Ness with buckets full of worms, huge swan mussels, dead baits and meats of all kind, and met up with master eel fisherman Arthur Sutton, Les Hudson, and Geoff Fletcher at the pick up point in North London. Jim Gibbinson and Dr. Terence Coulson travelled up together overnight in Terry's car and after an overnight stop at a fishing mate's house in Middlesbrough, we all met up at the campsite on the banks of the Caledonian Canal at Inverness on the Northern most shores of Loch Ness.

Huge eels had been reported from the Loch and at other waters nearby called Loch Dochfour and Abban Water and Terry's research indicated that we should catch plenty of fish. We fished every night for over a week with our assortment of baits, and small dead brown trout caught on maggot from the canal, but failed miserably with the monster eels we had come for. We caught lots of them but the size was not up to much,



Another of the Loch Ness crew with Dr Terence Coulson

3 lb + was about the best, until I hooked into something on the banks of Loch Ness by Urquhart Castle one dark spooky night 55 years ago this August!! Steve was by my side that night, and was never the same again!

...read part 2 next month, if you can stand the excitement!

Bob Rolph

Defying the odds!

Stewart Allum had a session on the (Dorset) Stour recently and despite challenging conditions had a couple of nice fish:



"A couple of fish that I caught recently from the Dorset Stour in challenging conditions. The river was low and clear with bright sunshine and a cold northerly breeze. To make matters worse the place was absolutely heaving with paddle boarders, canoeists and inflatables - a common sight



A new book written by Stewart Allum

A FISH FOR EVERY SEASON



Well-known angling writer and Freshwater Informer contributor Stewart Allum's new title 'A Fish for Every Season' is available in hardback at £29.95 (plus p&p) and limited to just 400 copies, the book is obtainable from The Little Egret Press.

Tel. 07909 090983

Email: sales@thelittleegretpress.co.uk

Documenting Stewart's lifelong passion for chub since when aged twelve, he saw his father catch a sizeable specimen from the Kentish Eden. The book recounts Stewart's travels throughout Britain, accompanied at times by some of our most legendary river fishermen, on a quest which has seen him journey far and wide in search of his favourite species.

Printed on high quality paper, comprising over 300 pages and with a foreword by Matt Hayes, the book is profusely illustrated with colour and black & white photographs plus many of Stewart's own drawings, along with additional artistic contributions from Peter Stone, Keith Linsell, Nigel Witham and Matt Hayes.

everywhere this year since lockdown was lifted. I managed to sneak out this nice sample of a chub at 4lb 1oz in a rare quiet spell just a minute or two before another canoe went through the swim! Not a huge fish for the Stour, but a very pleasing catch on a difficult day. I also added a smaller sample later, plus a very nice dace of 8ozs which took a whole lobworm!"





aving spent a large percentage of my life fishing in one form or another, I have recently been looking back over this extremely lengthy spell of involvement in the angling world - and trying to analize exactly what it is that makes the memorable incidents or occasions. I have come to the conclusion that there are so many that I would have to write a book (hang on a minute!) to even scratch the surface of the events that stick in my mind and evoke that magical feeling that is often so difficult to describe.



Frequently these memories revolve around certain captures, PBs etc or maybe a fish from a particularly difficult water, but I often find that it is other things, such as sightings of wildlife or meetings with interesting people that come to mind. Sometimes it can be a catch made by a fishing pal or even an event that is not directly connected to the fish at all. Although my current fishing time is rather more restricted than it was a while back, mainly due to domestic issues, I still normally manage to get out for a couple of sessions a week and always thoroughly enjoy my time on the bank.

My brother - in - law 'Martin' who occasionally accompanies me is not as fortunate and finds it difficult to get out more than a few times each year. As you can imagine, this is a recipe for 'piscatorial frustration' as he has to put up with my stories of success and enjoyable times at the waterside. Last winter, or was it the one before, I was very pleased to witness his first ever pike, a mid double, caught, during an afternoon session, one of only two that we managed together for the pike that year. One of Martin's ambitions over

the last few years has been to catch a barbel and I have had a number of sessions with him - all blank - in spite of my best efforts at getting everything right, ie location, timing etc. A few days off recently however, courtesy of a cancelled holiday, gave us the chance to rectify the situation and I was delighted to net his first 'whisker' for him on the Medway a couple of weeks back. This was not a monster but an incredibly important catch for him and I will remember his smile for a long time to come. It was the only bite of the day and I had been really hoping that if just one take occurred that it would be Martin's rod that went. Definitely another one for the 'memorable moments file'.



Nice fish - wrong species

Martin's first Barbel

You may have noticed from pictures that I use with my articles that I frequently use electric bite indicators, even when fishing on the rivers. Some anglers believe that they are out of place in this situation and I do have sympathy for this view. The truth is however, that I like to spend much of my time at the waterside watching the comings and goings of the wildlife and generally observing my surroundings rather than being totally glued to my tod tips, indicators etc. I also frequently use a pocket receiver, but this is not to allow me to wander away from my rods, which has been suggested, but more about being able to have the volume of the head turned down so that it is just me that hears them and I don't cause disturbance to any other anglers fishing nearby. I hate fishing on waters where the tranquility is frequently ruined by the sound of other anglers tuning up/or playing with their buzzers! I always use Delkim heads and receivers and have done so for many years and can't find fault with them. They are infinitely adjustable to 90% of all situations and as I am not the most careful when it comes to looking after my gear, I can vouch for the fact the they are relatively impervious to weather conditions and the accidental abuse that I have subjected them to. I have just got hold of a set of the latest versions (pictured) and can't wait to get out on the bank with them. I will give them a good going over and report my findings later, although I am extremely confident that I will be happy. Having this new set means that I can send back my four old heads for renovation - which will allow me to use them as spares.

FRESHWATER





Somebody asked me if I would sell my old ones to them now? Absolutely not!

There are too many memories of 'Red Letter Davs' attached to them!

Best Fishes & Memories Bob Morris



Monday - Saturday 9.00am until 5.30pm Sunday 10.00am until 4.30pm

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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



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

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PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB Contact Martyn on 07802 248861



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

something for everyone.

on our website.

River Rother

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

MICK BATTELL MEMORIAL FISHING DAY - TRICKLEBROOK **FISHERY - MATCH LAKE**



2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th

Duncan Battell & Rod Craft Austin Battell & Jamie Theobald Kev Hickey & Neal Rogers Russell Battell & Jon Smith Gareth Stokes & Russell Scott Bing Crosby & Chris Green Martyn Hill & Graham Fisk Phil Theobald & Roger Fermor Jason Craven & Jim Fletcher

66 pts 65 pts 61 pts 60 pts 59 pts 55 pts 55 pts 55 pts 44 pts



SILVERS BULKWEIGHT Russell Battell **CARP BULKWEIGHT** Phil Theobald

24lb 6oz 16lb 2oz





SECTION 1 - Phil Theobald 34 pts SECTION 2 - Russell Battell 42 pts SECTION 3 - Chris Green 32 pts

Biggest of species:

CARP Rod Craft 8lb 8oz BREAM **Duncan Battell** 1lb 6oz ROACH Russell Battell 1lb 0oz Chris Green

PERCH Kev Hickey Rod Craft Bing Crosby

MAIDSTONE VICTORY OPEN River Medway, Barming, Kent 21 fished 23/09/2020

This season opens came to an end at a showery Barming on the Medway. The small amount of rain has had little impact on the clear water and weights were generally down. Regular attendee Fred 'The Shed' Brown claimed his second win of the series from peg 2 downstream where he fished long pole with caster over groundbait taking the win from John Gore on end upstream peg 25. Delcac skipper Kevin Dver completed this weeks podium with another strong performance.

Results:

Fred Brown (South East Match Group) 7-15-0 John Gore (Maver South East) 6-14-12 Kevin Dyer

(Preston Innovations DELCAC) 5-14-12 Kevin Pack (Maver South East) 5-3-4 Mick Hayman (MVAS) 5-0-8 Dave Roberts (Medway Tackle) 4-14-12 Mike Rose (MVAS) Jeff Davis (MVAS) 4-7-0



Tenterden Trout Waters

Tenterden, Kent

October has been a busy month for the fishery with maintenance of Lake 3, this all adds to a more positive fishing experience for anglers. Water levels are gradually getting back to normal. Now that we have completed these Autumn jobs we have stocked all 3 lakes with varying weights of rainbows and browns which makes for exciting fishing here at Tenterden.

We had our Fishery Record Rainbow for 2020 in late October, a 10 pounder, caught by Peter Beeny, on a Daddy on Lake 3. It gave him a magnificent fight and he was delighted with it. Peter has done well this year at our Fishery winning the Trout Masters here in September.

I am always very pleased to have Fisherwomen here – there are not that many of us around. Rosie is fairly new to the skill set but was clearly delighted to have landed this trout - her face says it all - just hooked and so chuffed - what a smile!



We continue to welcome the younger generation into this amazing

sport with their families. Phil Middleton's son recently caught a rainbow here and submitted it to the Junior Trout Masters - we are always thrilled to witness these special moments.

Our Shepherds Hut accommodation has proved very positive since we launched it in July, both for anglers who wish to stay and fish and for other guests who just welcome a short break away during these difficult times. 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 this system is working well for all concerned and we thank you all for your support. 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 open for tea/coffee with our compliments. We have great facilities with kitchen/dining/sofa, toilet and lakeside balcony where you can relax. See photos in our Gallery. We are not hiring out rods, tackle etc – cork rod handles do not sanitise well and we need to keep everyone safe from the virus.

Fishing Lessons have proved popular to many and can be booked direct 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 and you can purchase a lesson as a gift voucher experience.

For an up-to-date fishing report please go to our website and click on News/Fishing Report. www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk 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. We also offer Gift Vouchers for that special present please call Gaynor on 01580 763201 or email gaynor@coombe-farm.com now that Christmas is fast approaching and we are considering gifts.

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

Tight Lines - Gaynor, Richard & Audrey

EVENT: Charles Jardine's Skill Set Day

will be on the 7 March 2021, for further info visit our website under Fishery News to book place if you are interested.

TENTERDEN TROUT WATERS

Peter Beeny 10lbs - NEW FISHERY RECORD

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TUITION BY APPOINTMENT A TROUTMASTERS WATER
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Contact (01580) 763201





Brick Farm Lakes Herstmonceux, East Sussex

October has seen temperatures remaining low. The leaves are just starting to drop which has peaked the interests of some of the trout as they can regularly be seen patrolling the floating leaves hoping to find an easy meal amongst them!

We are yet to have a frost but they can't be far away. The squirrels are frantically running around each day collecting the fallen acorns and stashing them ready for the imminent winter. Fishing has remained fairly consistent over the last couple of weeks. All lakes are fishing well



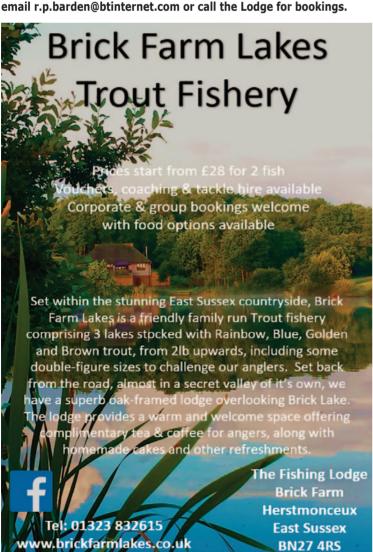
and producing fish daily. There have again been numerous large fish caught, including a couple of outstanding catches - **Chloe** landed a 7.8lb Rainbow on her 14th birthday outing and **Mark Denman** from Eastbourne District Fly Fishers caught a stunning 9.7lb Brown from the far end of Brick Lake on a Daddy Long Legs.

Alan Franks got himself a fantastic 9.13lb Rainbow from Spring Lake.

We are continuing to stock weekly including larger fish and the odd albino

which are still rewarded with a 2 fish ticket for use on your next visit. **Brian Wood** recently landed one of our albinos which weighed in at 3.6lb and he finished off his bag with a lovely 6.1lb Rainbow. Keep an eye on www.brickfarmlakes.co.uk for regular reports which highlight notable catches.

Please note we have a Fishing for Schools event on 14 November. This is a pairs competition and anglers of all ages and abilities are encouraged and welcome to participate. If you are new to competitive fly fishing this is an ideal opportunity to experience a unique event in a relaxed and informal setting. We will be closed on this day for the private function – if you would like any more information please email r.p.barden@btinternet.com or call the Lodge for bookings.









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> You will be warmly welcomed to this unique fishery by Miss Carole Lindsay who took ownership in July 2020.



Email: contact@dunctonmillfishery.co.uk

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Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman

Lure Fishing

Let the fun begin!

Farmoor Oxford [OX2 9NS]

Each autumn I'm torn between predator fishing and fly fishing, the predators usually win my attention. This year however I've really missed my trout fishing, the 'lockdown' meant I missed almost all of my spring fly fishing. A visit to Farmoor was necessary to scratch the itch I had for some fly fishing, especially as my local predator fishing hadn't really started yet. I like a challenge and that's what Gary Collins and I faced on this occasion. Anyone who knows me knows I much prefer fishing from boats, so when I suggested 'bank fishing' it was for a very good reason. The severe wind would have made any sort of subtle presentation impossible in the boat whether drifting or at anchor so I reasoned our best bet was to fish from 'terra firma'. The Farmoor reservoirs are concrete bowls which means that 'deep water' is within easy casting distance. We headed for F1 the smaller of the two Farmoor reservoirs. I like the idea of fishing F1 as it's compulsory to 'catch and release' the fish on this water. This means the fish are not all of the same age swimming in shoals all doing the same thing. As they stay in the water for longer and 'naturalise' finding food they 'grow on' and some even manage to overwinter too. This gives me the incentive to fish with imitative flies, which I tend to do anyway but in this situation it makes me feel the fish might actually appreciate my approach.

We started fishing by the tower as this offered us some shelter and allowed us to swing our flies across the wind into the 'downwind corner' of the reservoir. The water was 'gin clear' as usual, Farmoor rarely colours up unless there's an algae bloom. My 'game plan' was to fish a floating line with three flies evenly spaced on a 15ft leader. I choose a Claret Hopper for my top dropper, a UV Black Cruncher on the middle and a weighted Damsel nymph on the point. The weighted fly was selected to help turn my leader over into the wind and also to create an angle in the leader which would see each fly fishing a different depth. I was confident the fish would be active and searching for food in the upper layers and would rise to anything that looked like food. Gary's tactics were similar although he chose to use a 'midge tip' line, a floating line with a short sinking tip. The 'midge tip' digs in and slows the lines drift which in turn holds the flies down, to stop them going too deep Gary positioned a buoyant fly a FAB 'foam arse Blob' on the point 'washing line' style. This presentation allowed him to fish a little more actively whilst maintaining depth. Our two pronged approach is a tactic I always employ when fishing with friends, you quickly find the most effective method when you work as a team.



Having got my casting rhythm back I started to explore different levels, working from the surface down. I was retrieving slowly at first trying to maintain an even depth. After going through several different depths I tried a faster retrieve which I knew would keep my team of flies much closer to the surface and instantly had a fish take my top dropper fly which was only inches below the surface. The fish fought like a tiger and I was grateful when it slid into the net. Relieved, I opened the mesh which revealed a fin perfect, 'bar of silver' a typical F1 fish that had grown on to over 4lbs. After about an hour I received no further offers so it was time to move. We had to walk several hundred yards to get enough shelter to allow us to cast, safely. I repeated the searching process but was confident the fish were 'high' in the water. After mixing up my retrieves I hooked another solid fish this time on the Cruncher, unfortunately, it charged into the margin collecting some weed on another fly which dislodging the hook, doh! After another fruitless half hour I was on the move again. I'd come to the conclusion that the fish weren't circulating much so if they weren't coming

to me, I would have to move to them! It was two moves later before I hooked another fish, this time on the weighted Damsel fly. The cloud cover had burnt off by now and with blue skies and bright sunshine it was no surprise that the deepest fly had produced this fish. The fishery ranger who regularly drives around the perimeter road reported most anglers on F2 had caught fish and almost all had been on dry flies!





By now we'd reached the causeway that divides F1 from F2, the wind was hacking into the bank if we continued to fish F1, but, by crossing over to F2 we had the wind off our backs, it wasn't a hard decision to switch reservoirs. Immediately we saw signs of fish just sub-surface, in the light ripple we could easily see their presence as they disturbed the regular pattern of the ripple.

Time to change tactics

Gary had changed lines and flies several times during the day, despite having a few takes he hadn't caught up until now. Seeing fish was all the encouragement he needed to switch to a team of buzzers, fished under an indicator, which instantly produced a fish to his relief. I was surprised the successful fly was set at six feet! I didn't need much to convince me to change too, but my choice was dry flies. Off came my nymphs and on went three 'Davie McPhail Hoppers', top fly was a red hopper, middle fly a Bibio hopper and point fly an orange hopper. I started getting swirls and offers but failed to convert any which was exciting but, also confusing. Gradually the shoal moved on and I was left covering 'dead' water. Time to move on, I walked a couple of hundred yards down the causeway where I found a 'wind lane', I aimed my casts right where the calm met the ripple. On queue, a fish rose and took my orange hopper point fly. I landed this fish quite quickly as it was obviously a new stockie of about 2lb. Gary had decided to return to F1 where we'd started, by the time I caught up with him he'd nabbed another fish which shows persistence always pays off! Time was running out as I slotted in beside him, I couldn't get my leader to 'turn over' with three dries on while casting into the wind so I substituted my point fly for a weighted



'cut throat' Cats Whisker. This worked perfectly as I quickly hooked another rainbow, this time on the Bibio Hopper. Gary was packing up, but, I was still keen to fish on and hastily moved down the bank to cover new water and a couple of casts later I hooked another fish on the Bibio. The fight suddenly changed mid-battle as the fish charged out into open water, then just as suddenly the fish returned to powerfully swimming up and down the marginal shelf. I was relieved to slip the net under another 4lb plus rainbow as it hit the surface. Only as I unhooked it did I notice it was on the orange hopper! I was confused as I was sure I'd hooked the fish on the Bibio. Packing up I noticed my Bibio fly was missing so I'd hooked a second fish while playing the first one! What a dramatic end to a very tiring but successful day. Gary had really grafted for his fish, I'd been lucky to catch early on which gave me the confidence to stick to one approach. By regularly moving we had covered new water and fish which is not unlike how we fish when fishing from a drifting boat, an approach worth remembering for another day?

Bewl Water [TN3 8JH]

I have neglected Bewl for several years as I became obsessed with zander fishing 'up country' on Grafham and Rutland reservoirs. In the last two years,

I've returned to my local water targeting both perch and pike often in the company of Gary Collins. As I've mentioned in previous articles, the pike have proved an enigma to me. Gary has excelled catching a few twenties on lures and one on deadbait of 25lbs! When we've fished together Gary has stuck to his guns and fished solely for pike while I've often been distracted mixing it up and fishing for perch as well. I did however fluke a nice 'upper double' last year while perch fishing. So far this season I've been much more 'focused' and although I'm now catching pike regularly I'm still waiting to catch something 'special'. On other days I've fished for perch and that's been so much fun with lots of bites and loads of fish. Recently I guided Paul Barden, an experienced lure angler and member of the LAS [Lure Anglers Society]. I told Paul not to expect anything over a 1lb but we would catch plenty while I showed him some tactical changes that would result in us catching more fish! We had a very productive day and to cap it all I caught a couple of bigger than expected perch of 39 cms and 40 cms, which equates to about 2lbs in old money. What was very pleasing was these fish came from two different spots, so not the same shoal; this is very encouraging for my future trips. **To be continued.....!**



Tight lines, Andy Lush



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.

 $\mbox{\it FLY FISHING}$ 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.



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!

We now enter in to the last of the Autumn months before Winter descends upon us! November is quite possibly one of the best months of the year for fishing. There have been some great bass caught from around the beaches and on the boats and a sprinkling of codling from Sussex and East Kent beaches. With the water cooling now to around 14 degrees

and dropping each week, we can but keep everything crossed that the codling remain within casting range. Some very good plaice are still around with Hythe and Seaford providing some fine fish. The dogfish are inshore in good numbers and dare I mention the whiting? Although in plague proportions, there have been some good sized specimens among their numbers. This is a great time of year to get new young anglers on the beaches to try the sport as the whiting should keep them entertained for many happy hours. Your local tackle shops will be more than happy to kit out the young anglers with a great budget outfit. Call it an early gift from Santa!

Sheppey report courtesy of Sheppey Angling



Thames report courtesy of Wayne May

As we approach the winter months the summer species are rapidly leaving us, with anticipation we await the whiting and odd codling. At Erith, near Morrisons, a few flatfish are being caught along with plenty of school bass. Greenhithe, St Clements Reach, fished really well last week despite the weather, as we changed tactics and fished over low tide from the end of the Causeway, plenty of flounder were present, casting right off the yellow buoy





and the rapid bites indicative of the school bass that were present. Further out into the Thames Estuary, there are still plenty of thornbacks to be caught, Dentex Charters have numerous dates available for the sea angler wishing to target thornback and large early whiting. NJ Fishing Tackle at Gravesend stock a great range of tackle and fresh and frozen baits. Call them on 01474 353998.





Medway report

Still bass coming from the river along with whiting, pouting a few eels and flounders. Some small rays being caught from Gillingham pier. A codling from the river was reported recently! Still plenty of crab activity.

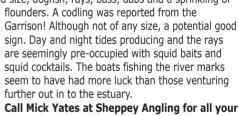
Medway Tackle Supplies at Twydall can provide all your bait and tackle requirements. Call 01634 475260.

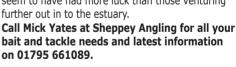






Plenty of fish being caught from the majority of marks around the island, although the Swale marks have been a little slower. Loads of whiting, some of a very good size, dogfish, rays, bass, dabs and a sprinkling of











North Kent

The past few weeks have produced some fine fishing along this section of shore. The thornbacks are still inshore and there are still the occasional hounds. Plenty of bass, including some nice specimens. Our sponsor, Medway and Kent Sea Fishing group's boss, Richard Steel, has had a few very nice fish and also enjoyed a



session at Seasalter where he was inundated with school bass! The flounders should start to make an appearance this month as temperatures begin to dip. Plenty of whiting and dogfish along at Herne Bay with a sprinkling of dabs.

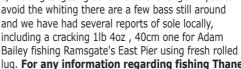
Absolute Tackle at Herne Common can supply a great range of fresh and frozen baits along with all your tackle requirements. Call 01227 636724.





Thanet report courtesy of Fisherman's Corner

The whiting have arrived in numbers, making targeting other fish a challenge. If you can avoid the whiting there are a few bass still around and we have had several reports of sole locally, including a cracking 1lb 4oz, 40cm one for Adam





lug. For any information regarding fishing Thanet, bait or tackle contact Fisherman's Corner at Ramsgate on 01843 582174.

FRESHWATER

Deal report

With the pier still closed, anglers are using the local beaches and catching plenty of whiting, dogfish and pouting. A few dabs towards Sandwich Bay end and a good chance of a codling this month if you can get past the whiting! Still a few thornbacks being caught.

Call Channel Angling Deal for all your bait requirements on 01304 373104







Shakespeare beach producing whiting, dogfish, bass and a few rays. Samphire Hoe has shown wrasse, pollack, bass and the odd garfish and mackerel on clear calm days.

Channel Angling at Snargate Street, Dover carry a huge range of tackle and fresh and frozen baits. Call Craig on 01304 203742.









Hythe & Surrounding Areas courtesy of Steve Bates

Sandgate, Hythe and through to Dymchurch has been fishing reasonably well. The recent big South Westerlies have been really stirring things up along the shore line and food is in

abundance from worm, shellfish & crab to hoards of whiting. At this time of the year, it is worth every minute trying a live bait for bass in the back of the surf, or with the right weather window on the right tide after a good blow, an early cod. During the day when the water has been settled, the odd plaice is still showing over HW fishing fresh worm at distance. At the end of those clear calm days, some anglers have also been jigging for squid in the late evenings from the shore, with some success, this is something I have yet to have a go at myself. This time of the year, you can expect to catch plenty of the usual suspects, whiting, dogfish, dabs & bass. However the



whiting are out in full force and can make fishing difficult for other species at times. The rays appear to still be offshore although the odd one or two are still being picked up. Baits and rigs still doing the business are 2 hook flappers or clipped down rigs baited with fresh worm then tipped with squid or small pieces of sandeel and pulley droppers fished with bluey, whole squid or mackerel will see you catch plenty of fish. Local tackle shops are Dens Tackle 01303 267053 and Best Buddies 01303 487144.

Eastbourne report courtesy of Tony's Tackle

This month angling on the south coast has been strange to say the least not knowing what will come next! Numerous congers showed up from Langney Point and Splash Point beaches which produced the most. Local ace Jim Whippy landed one of 8lb 4oz from Cambridge Road and Luke Ripley caught some good ones from Beachy Head rocks. Amazing stuff with loads of whiting bitten in half on the retrieve. Early in the month we were blessed with codling up to 7 lb on black lug, fresh or oiled, which seemed to have disappeared now. Stacks of really good bass caught from Langney and Pevensey Bay beaches on lug and ragworm. Dover soles have been landed up to $\ensuremath{\mathbf{2}}$









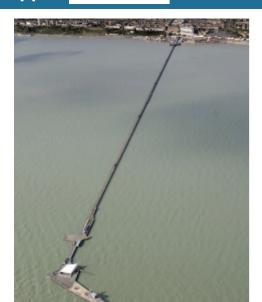


lb by Gerald Sargeant and Joe Plumstead had a1 lb 9oz plus and a monster (in pic) from Ed Holyoak. Soles mainly taken on fresh lug and smaller hooks being the order of the day and 3 hook rigs best. Keith Erridge and Joe Plumstead are on fire in the local match scene with Gerald Sargeant not far behind. There are still a few good size thornback rays from Alice's pipe Norman's Bay and Splash Point. Eastbourne boats catching pollack from wrecks with a few cod. Plenty of dogfish and a welcome return of some good size bull huss. Congers on rock marks or wrecks and some great bass fishing from Beachy Head. Plaice continue to show drifting on lug and ragworm. The sea is plagued with whiting in boats and on most shore marks. Hopefully these should get bigger as the month goes on. Don't forget to call Tony's Tackle for all your bait needs on 01323 731388 or 07821514853 and visit our website www.tonystackleshop.co.uk. Tight lines, Tony Kirrage.









SAM'S FISHING JOURNAL

courtesy of Sam Cox

'Piering' out of the Gloom!

It is a sad fact that sea angling is losing many famous marks, Dover Breakwater is as far as I know now permanently lost, Deal Pier and Dover's Admiralty Pier are currently closed and Folkestone Pier is now daylight and members only. Access is another issue, many areas that I used to fish in Essex now have nowhere to park without a mile or so walk, this means these areas are lost to many.

In this article I shall take a look at Southend Pier. Angling is now highly restricted on the pier. There may not be the angling opportunities that were there in the past, but this underrated location is still producing the goods for those willing to give it a chance.

Built in the late 1800s, Southend pier is still the longest pleasure pier in the world. Having suffered several devastating fires and collisions by various marine vessels, the pier still stands proud, jutting out 1.34 miles into

the outer reaches of the river Thames. It is the only pier in the UK that I know of that has its own railway with two stations, one at the shore end at one where the head meets the stem. In times gone by the pier has produced some great fish including cod to 29lb and an 8lbs plaice that, at the time, broke the British shore record. Many very large bass have fallen victim to anglers over the years. I even heard of salmon, sea trout and an angler fish being landed from the pier! There is very little chance of catching a cod from anywhere around our coast nowadays, so targeting these from the pier would be a futile exercise. Chatting to a member of the pier staff back in the early 90s, he was telling me about a six foot shark that was stranded on the lower deck by the retreating tide, he explained how they got the fish back into the water alive. As this was mid-June, I expect this was a large female tope, heavy with pups.



The pier consists of two main areas, the stem which is the main platform that protrudes from the shore into the river Thames, and the pier head, that is the area at the end of the pier and lays in an east - west direction. The pier is of iron and wood construction making it a great marine habitat. The flip side to this is that these areas are normally tackle graveyards. My grandparents lived in Southend so every now and then I liked a change from going out on my Dad's charter boat. This may seem strange, but as a young lad it gave me a sense of freedom that I did not have on the boat. I would catch the train from Southminster to Southend Victoria Station on a Friday evening and be picked up by my grandad. Early doors on the Saturday morning he would drop me off at the pier.

The third shelter area of the stem was a favourite mark. Flounders, eels, plaice and the odd small bass could be caught using simple running ledger rigs with size 2 hooks baited with crab or worm baits from mid-April onwards. A short cast away from the pier puts your gear into a slight channel that runs in a rough east to west direction. This spot needs at least three hours flood to be fishable as it is very shallow and is dry for at least three hours of the tide.

One of my childhood favourite summer spots was the area behind the train station. Once

the tide had flooded for a while and covered the mud with few feet of water mackerel, garfish and scad could be caught on Southend Pier mackerel tackle. (See rough sketch). It was here that I learnt how to catch garfish on the zip sliding float set up. Along with many areas of the pier, sadly this great spot is now a NO FISHING AREA.

The old lifeboat slipway was another favourite area, where the powers that be have now banned fishing. We caught many fish from here. Vast shoals of scad (horse mackerel) would gather here. We would catch them

and use the small ones as live baits for bass.

Due to the fires suffered by the pier over the years, vast areas still show the scars. As kids we would sneak down to the out of bounds lower deck and climb around the damaged burnt structure. Mullet, bass and scad were our targets. If I'm honest we lost more bass than we landed. We would set up multiple rods and drop lives baits into

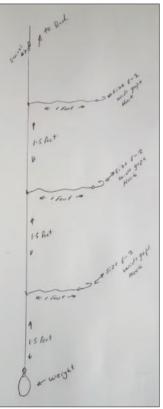


likely looking spots. Reels would be left out of gear with the ratchets on. When a reel was heard screaming we would run across the burnt and rotten structure and grab the rod. Most bass were lost after running our lines around the posts, but we did land some up to almost eight pounds. We would look at these fish awe struck by their beauty, then bang them on the head, flog them to the local Chinese restaurants and use the money to buy beer and fags. My old Dad would have done his nut if he had known at the time what complete little buggers we were.

I have not fished the pier since the early 2000s and from what I am told it has changed a lot. As with many fishing spots from harbours and piers around the UK, fishing has been very much restricted, smoking is now completely banned on Southend Pier due to the powers that be being a little paranoid of fires being started. However, there are still plenty of other species available to all anglers whatever your skill set or age.

We used to catch a multitude of species, most of these, bar cod, can still be caught. But nowadays there are some new species to be targeted. For youngsters and those who take pleasure in species hunts there are ballan and corkwing wrasse, topknot blennies, whiting, pouting and even the odd small pollack. Wrasse are feisty, beautifully coloured fish that will bring a smile to even the most accomplished angler. To catch multiple mini species is very simple, tie a cut loop paternoster rig, use size 6 to size 2 strong hooks baited with worm and just lower into the water. The reason strong hooks should be used is there is a fair chance of hooking a thick lipped mullet as they too frequent the pilings. Bites are short, sharp taps that can be hard to hit. Float fishing over slack water can be very productive and really good fun, there's something satisfying about watching a float.

Thornback rays and smoothounds are more than a realistic target now from the head of Southend Pier. As kids we never saw or heard of these being

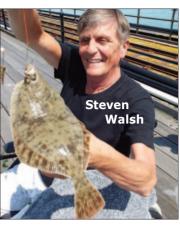




caught. The west point is the easiest for casting. Pulley rigs baited with crab for the hounds and fish baits for the rays will give an angler a good chance. It is worth bearing in mind that there is a large snag some 50 yards straight out from the pier. So when reeling in hold your rod high and reel fast to avoid this. A large diameter drop net is a must from any structure that is high above the water. Many fish have been lost when anglers try to hand line the fish up. With the event of covid-19 and the lock down, angling has become more popular than ever. The issue I have is that not every person holding a fishing rod is an







angler and therefore does not have the passion for the sport, nor a love of the environment. This has led to many sea angling marks becoming littered with angling detritus. The powers that be do not need much of an excuse to close these areas to angling, and I fear the minority have already ruined this in many areas.

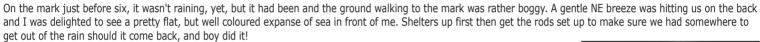
In the free market economy we live in there are very few free lunches, marks like piers have to make money to exist. If we do not use these places we shall ultimately lose them for ever! However, Southend pier is alive and well and here are some recent catch photos to whet your appetite!

OUT AND ABOUT WITH ANDY by Andrew Cook

Sussex Raid Part II

fter our recent plaice hunt at Seaford, myself and Ashley Whibley Jr. decided to go a bit further West for our next session. The SW wind blowing the day before should have stirred things up a bit and the chosen mark is known for undulates, decent conger, and, dare I say it, the odd cod.

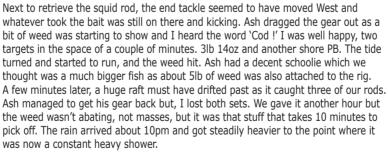
I picked Ash up at 2:45pm and we fairly whizzed down to Shoreham, via the fabled Pease Pottage services once more for a coffee and a sausage roll, but then things all came to a halt. Hitting the Brighton area during rush hour is never a good idea and with a couple of detours to avoid the traffic, the last few miles took around an hour.

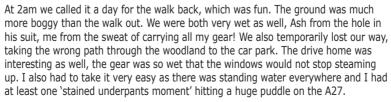




We had a 90 minute wait into darkness to get a little depth in the water then it was baits out. Two rods, both pulley rigs with mackerel caught from Tuesday and whole squid. Two minutes after putting the squid rod in the rest and it started giving that tell tale 'dogfish nod'. Oh well, a fish is a fish and in the first hour or so Ash and I added to our lifetime dogfish tally with another three each. What was concerning was that I lost a set of tackle on a raft of weed that went past so I was hoping it was

It then went quiet for a couple of hours with just the odd small rattle on the rod tips. Just before HW, 00:45hrs, I noticed a few slow dips on the squid rod. Within a minute the mackerel rod also started pulling, so watching which one was more constant, I decided to lift into the mackerel rod. This wasn't a dogfish as it was pulling back and getting heavier as the water shallowed. Ash was at the water's edge and he shouted 'conger! A few minutes later after unhooking and pictures, a conger of between 2 and 3lb was returned to the water, not a monster but a target and a PB.





Not masses of fish and the undulates didn't show, but I've got to be happy with the result. I did feel bad for Ash again though, at least no blank mate. Good luck if you are out over the weekend, and don't forget the waterproofs. Next week - It's boat fishing time with Daniel Taylor on Better Days! Tight lines all, Andy









DUNGENESS Latest catch reports on www.seagullfishingtackle.com

One of the top autumn months for sea fishing. This is the month we hope for a good south westerly storm to stir up the sea bed and push all that lovely sea food into the beach, followed by cod moving in for the freebies...those were the days! Will they return, only time will tell. Keep an eye on the weather. If we get flat still nights we should catch a growing number of dabs, in my opinion the tastiest flat fish in the sea. As I said, November is a great month and we will have the bigger bass moving in as well.

BEACH REPORT

October has been a 'funny' month, yes plenty of whiting about, but the sheer numbers of bass about has been exceptional and yes, we have had a few codling about depending on the weather conditions.

Here are a few reports from the beach on my site:

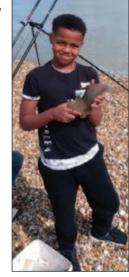
Nice to see the Juniors back!

I had this report in yesterday from Alex Whittlesea of the DAA:

"Hi Tony, 13 Juniors fished at Littlestone on Saturday in bright sunshine and a gentle West breeze. Fish were thin on the ground with just a few whiting showing. However, with the lack of whiting, a few better fish did get the chance to find the bait. Newcomer Theodora caught her first ever sea fish, a stunning bass of 46cm (pictured with her

brother and dad) which she released to get even bigger. Malakai managed a nice sole of 32cm and James caught an eel of 35cm. Well done to all who took part. Many thanks Alex"





Ni Wa I h "Hi up love

Position	n Nam	e	No	of Fish	Tot	tal Lengt
1	Rom	an		2		52
2	Thea	dora		1		46
3	Aide	n L		2		39
4	Jame	es T		1		35
5	Mala	kai		1		32
6	Rhys			0		0
6	Max			0		0
6	Luke	***		0		0
				-		7.04
6	Jack			0		0
6	Leon	C		0		0
6	Harr	y A		0		0
6	Maa	leah		0		0
6	Tren	naine		0		0
Position	Name	Noo	f Fish	Total Le	ngth	Matches
1	Maaleah	1	7	179cr	m	2
2	James T		6	167c	m	2
3	Aiden L		5	115cr	m	2
4	Leon NH	15	4	1110	m	1
5	Max M		3	77cn	n	2
6	Leon C		2	56cn	n	2
7	Malakai		2	53cm	1	2
8	Max L		2	52cn	n	2
9	Roman		2	52cn	n	1
10	Theador	a	1	46cn	n	1
11	Tremain	e	1	26cn	n	2
12	Harry A		0	0cm	1	2
12	Jack		0	0cm	1	1
12	Luke		0	0cm	1	1
12	Rhys		0	0cm	1	1

Nice to see... warming seas

I had this report in from Rob Bower at the beginning of the week:
"Hi Tony, Went fishing at the warren in Folkestone on Sunday evening fished the tide

up for 2 hours and caught 2 nice dog fish and this sea bream Lost a few to with some lovely bites. Regards, Rob."

Galloways always
worth a go!
I had this report in from
Rob Lasells:

"Sitting at home last and I decided to go down to Galloways, grabbed lug and squid from the freezer. In the water by 22.30 whiting all the way until 01.30 and I landed a thornback of 7lbs 4oz, well worth the effort."







I had this report in from Neil Rodwell:

"Hi Tony. I thought I would send you a report of my day at Brighton marina on Friday. The target was sole. I managed 4 at the beginning of the day with 6 other species mixed in including the largest whiting I've ever caught. The fish turned into crabs around 1 and the wind picked up with the waves coming over the wall so called it a day around 3. Looking at getting back to Dungey soon for a bass in the surf. Will speak soon. Many thanks. Neil."



A 'thumbs up' from Simon

I saw this posted by Simon Newman:

"Firstly, if your at all squeamish, don't look at the photo! I haven't put it up here so you can avoid blood if you don't like seeing it. Secondly, a nice 4lb 10oz bass from Dungeness this afternoon on a live whiting. Missed another good take as well. I fished yesterday afternoon and caught 9 bass on worm but all undersized. I did lose a very good fish which swallowed a whiting but wasn't properly hooked. Today, I went with the right rigs and caught a proper one for tea tonight. Lovely! Now back to fishing! I was using a circle hook on the live bait rig. As I was removing the hook, a big head shake and the next thing I knew was the clever blighter transferred the hook from him to me, very, very well in! I've been fishing for nearly 50 years and had hooks in my fingers, hands, ears and even lips but have always managed to get them out without any drama. This circle hook was different and just wouldn't come out, leaving me no choice other than to push it through and wander up the beach asking if anyone had any pliers with them. Fortunately, Steve Savage did, and with a quick snip cutting off the barb, the hook was removed. Surprisingly painless and I only fainted twice! Bass for tea, happy days.'



BEACH OUTLOOK FOR NOVEMBER

Well will we get a cod storm or will we get dab flat calm seas? You just don't know. Watch the weather, if in doubt check my weekly weather forecast on my website. Lets hope we get lucky!

BEST BAITS Fish are not that choosy, but the classic lugworm and squid work well and if we get a blow try razorfish and gueen cockle.

BOAT REPORTS

The weather is breaking up making it more of a 'lottery' to get afloat, but if you can we have had some great fishing especially for the conger. Here are a couple of boat reports coming into my site:



Only one...but...!

I saw this report posted by Jerry Oiller today, keep the faith, more to follow... "Fairchance fishing Dungeness 01797 363544 Today. Target species caught, Bisley Sea Anglers aboard today. First try in the East Bay today for a cod, Tony Hudson managed to boat one of 6lb 6oz, caught on 2 squid down tide, also caught 3 or 4 small congers, 3 thornbacks, mackerel, dogfish and whiting. A nice day to be afloat in a stiff S W breeze. Happy Days."

Another autumn fish

I saw this report from Jerry Oiller posted yesterday... "Fairchance fishing Dungeness 01797 363544 Today. One man and his rod, target species caught, a nice autumn day with a light SSW Breeze, Nathan Levi Smith aboard today tried his hardest to catch a cod, result one 4 lber, too many strap congers to keep a bait on the bottom for more than 5 minutes. Happy Days.'



We live in hope!

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

"A Glimmer of hope on today's trip and a very happy Ben!!!"



I saw this report from yesterday Jerry Oiller out on Fairchance from Dungeness beach:

"Fairchance fishing Dungeness 01797 363544 Today, Challenging conditions today, with a stiff WNW breeze and not a lot of tide, but the crew of three tried their hardest, resulting in 1 or 2 thornbacks, smoothhound, small congers, a couple of plump bass for Foggy Robinson caught on live mackerel, dogfish and whiting, plenty of mackerel to be had, we were joined in the East Bay by Rye's top skipper Anthony Hills. Happy Days."



The smile has it!

A report from Anthony out on Peganina (07989778361) from Rye:

"Some decent sport today!"

What bends your rod I had this report in from Anthony out on Peganina (07989778361) from Rye: "More really good sport yesterday."

BOAT OUTLOOK FOR NOVEMBER As I said last month, the problem is the weather not the fish. The struggle will be to get afloat, but if you get lucky you will find plenty of conger on the wrecks. Inshore on rough ground the hope is to find a few cod, worth a go and use big baits to slow down the whiting! BEST BAITS

Fish baits, dependant on your target species, mackerel, squid and cuttlefish.









Autumn is truly here now the whiting have turned up in force! Very good for the newcomers or the kids to keep them amused through the slack tide.

The usual rigs, 2 or 3 hook flapper, with any bait, squid, herring, lug being the preferred. We are catching whiting up to 1.5 lb being the biggest with hundreds under the 27cms sizeable limit. The problem I believe is the vast shoals of herrings which swim through, I'm sure the better fish come off the bottom to gorge on the herrings. We are noticing 5 or 6 seals most days around the boat when we are anchored. For me, this is the end of a chance of a nice bass but 'que sera, sera'. Bass fishing has been very stable, no great numbers, but most trips seeing 2 reasonable fish with the odd double coming aboard. I like to use a basic flowing trace with 30 lb hook line up to 12 ft long with 4/0 koike wide mouth hooks and single yellow tail or double squid. I prefer the long hook line when fishing chalk ledges with more flow for the bait to waft about in the tide. Live baiting whiting is another good way of getting a double figure fish but patience is a must with this method and don't strike when you do get a hit, wait for the 2nd as a bass usually hits the bait first, then it will nail the bait and hopefully hook itself. Skate, rays, thornbacks, roker, whatever you would like to call them, I call them my bread and butter fish, always put a bend in the rod and can be caught in numbers when tide and location are good. Most spots off Ramsgate for skate are weather dependent and I still try to educate anglers with putting the female fish back. Rigs I like to use are very simple once

again, either a bolt rig with a 2ft hook line with 6/0 koike wide mouth or sakuma manta extras or Cox and Rawle are all ideal strong hooks but I have gone over to catfish hooks in size 2/0 which are amazing as they self hook the skate or I like to use a flowing trace with same hooks but 6ft average hook length. I like my uptiding so I use Gemini yellow fixed wires in 8 ozs and I am very lucky as I have a good friend that makes my weights because we fish snaggy ground and do lose them. On



to supply weights, bait and rigs. Roger Williams is my rig man making the rigs, quality, you won't get better. I can't believe the smoothounds are still here, not in as many numbers, but still on a good day reaching 10 in the right spots. Bait and rigs are nothing special, but hooks no bigger than 4/0. If you can and water is clear, live double prawn can be deadly, but we have had some results in dirty water. We think the 'clicking' of the tails is what the hounds go for and if anyone has got frozen peeler in the freezer use it up on the last of the hounds. We haven't seen any bigger fish but a 6 lb fish isn't unusual. They will fight hard as they are lean and mean. Now can I mention the cod, the unicorn of the sea? We have had 4 in total this month! I hear you say this isn't good, but we haven't had that all winter for the last 3 years but I'm not going to get excited. However, I have ordered 10 kilo of cart, which is the red coral of the female brown crab. I use it in armour mesh and make it into about a 6 inch sausage on a pennel rig, this is deadly for codling. All in all, plenty of fish but you do have to work through the smaller fish. Don't get frustrated, a fish is a fish!.

Lady Ann, all bait and tackle is supplied so I do need a good back up team

Tight lines from everyone aboard Lady Ann of Ramsgate - Jason

We have plenty of places left so message me on 07966273650 or the boss on 07854 772314.







HASTINGS report courtesy of Hastings Angling Centre

The weather this autumn has been very variable from warm calm days to torrential rain and storm force gales, often in the space of days! This has made for testing fishing from both beach and boat. Not many codlings showing up just the odd one but plenty of bass, soles and usual hordes of whiting, mostly undersize. The beach competitions this year are much muted affairs with numbers limited and strict social distancing at the draw and weighing in with no presentations taking place. Far from ideal, but at least they are on and let us hope they stay on. The two day Hastings Festival was cancelled this year but a much reduced two dayer was fished in very tough conditions of warm sunshine, flat calm clear seas and some of the biggest (8.2m) tides of the year, two days later there was a full gale blowing! See report below.

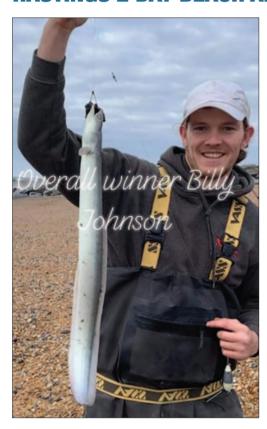
In the boats, on the few occasions they have got out, there have been a few codlings on rough ground with bass pollack and black bream on the wrecks.

Prospects for November. With the sea still very warm bass and soles on the beaches in rough weather with whiting when it calms a bit, especially in the evenings. Still a chance of codling and small congers.

The black bream should hang around for some weeks yet on the wrecks (still getting some in January last winter) many of the bass usually come inshore from the wrecks in the autumn and the pollack become the main wreck guarry with the odd codling and rays/tope on rough ground.



HASTINGS 2 DAY BEACH ANGLING COMPETITION



Big thanks to Mark Rogers for organising, Paul Parsons for pegging, Hastings Angling Centre for ladies and junior prizes, Julian Shambrook for hoodies and Hastings and St Leonard's A.A use of facilities. Fishing was very hard on both days with bright calm conditions with a very gentle offshore breeze. Combined with some of the biggest high tides of the year, the sea cleared out and most of the fish went out to sea. Covid rules meant the match was strictly limited to a small field and drawing of pegs and weighing in was done socially distanced out doors with no prize presentation this year. Best which could be done under the circumstances. Winner on the Saturday was Billy Johnson fishing on

Winner on the Saturday was Billy Johnson fishing or peg 7 with 6 fish for 2lb 9oz. Runner up fishing at Stamco was Paul Parsons with 4 fish for 2lb 3oz. Heaviest fish went to Nathan Elliott with a plaice of 1lb 8oz.





Sunday was even harder than Saturday with only 10 anglers weighing in out of 40 anglers. Sunday winner on peg 3 was Jacob Gainey with 4 fish for 2lb 8oz and the runner up was yesterday's winner Billy Johnson with an eel first cast weighing 1lb 9oz. Overall winner over the 2 days with maximum points was Billy Johnson with 2 section wins, picking up the heaviest fish pool with his eel of 1lb 9oz, with section wins, heaviest fish and overall winner he picked up over £600.

1st	Billy Johnson	2 pts
2nd	Sam Collier	3 pts
3rd	Saul Page	4 pts
4th	Mick Snelling	5 pts
5th	Jacob Gainey	6 pts
6th	Ralph Crosby	6 pts
7th	Colin Crosby	6 pts
8th	Paul Tiltman	8 pts
(Only 8	anglers managed to	catch both da



SECOND ROUND OF THE ASSO TEAM LEAGUE 19TH SEPTEMBER

The second round of the Asso Team League, postponed from March, was - appropriately socially distanced - fished on Hastings beaches. The fresh NE wind and one of the biggest tides of the year (8.2m) along with bright sunshine and many people on the beach made for very difficult fishing.

Worthy winner on such a very hard day was Mark Dyer fishing at the New Church with 7 fish for 4lb 1oz, including 2 soles and 2 bass (returned after measuring).

Heaviest fish was a bass of 48cm (equated to the length to weight table to 2lb 8oz) caught by Andrew Gainey.

Teams on the day	Team results after 2 matches

Teams on the day		Team results after a	2 matches
Hastings Angling Centre	17	Hastings Angling Centre	32
Channel Angling	19	Saul & co	38
Century match	20	Channel Angling	40
Saul & co	20	Folkestone Angling	40
Maidstone Angling	23	Century Match	44
Folkestone Angling	23	Maidstone Angling	48
Eddie & hot rods	28	Eddie & Hot Rods	48

Top Individuals after 2 matches

(Best 2 from 3 to count) Saul Page Mark Rogers 3 Ralph Crosby 3 Mick Tapsel 5 Luke Mooring Joe Wales 6 Thomas Wells 6 7 7 Graham King Colin Crosby Jacob Gainey Nathan Elliott Rex Palmer Julian French

01622 718580

0208 852 4451

Coarse Fisheries	
Beaver Farm Fishery Eastbourne Road, Newchar Lingfield RH7 6HL 01342 324006	apel / 07710 656041
Charlies Lakes	7 07710 050011
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 H	alden
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	01455 050055
Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP	07730 066088
Greenacres Farm Fishery	07700 00000
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, Horo 01323 840889	am TN21 0JB / 07707 759364
Iden Wood Fishery Coldharbour Lane, Iden, Ry 01797 280180	re TN31 7UT / 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 R	
Paddock Wood TN12 6NY 01892 838576	
Sandwich Lakes Coarse Fishery Sandwich Ash Near Canterbury CT3 2DA	1 Road (A257) 07936 409912
Tricklebrook Fishery	07930 409912
Colts Hill, Five Oak Green TN12 6SH	07743 955812
Wylands International Angling Centre Wylan	
Powdermill Lane, Battle TN33 0SU	01424 893394
Trout Fisheries	
Brick Farm Lakes	
Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux BN27 4RS	01435 830835
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email: r.nathan@btinternet.com	01892 770903
Duncton Mill Trout Fishery Dye House Land	
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Cinder Hill Fly Fishing Membership available	e from		
email: r.nathan@btinternet.com	01892 770903		
Duncton Mill Trout Fishery Dye House Lan	е		
Duncton, Petworth GU28 0LF	07855 822401		
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Reservoir Lane, Sedlescombe TN33 OPJ	01424 870498		
Spring Hill Trout Waters Albans Farm, Romford Road			
Pembury TN2 4BB	07951 304515		
Tenterden Trout Waters Coombe Farm, Ch	ennell Park Road		
Tenterden TN30 6XA	01580 763201		

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South London Angling Centre 286 Lee High Road, London SE13 5PJ

Sues Tackle Cabin The Spice Warehouse, Rye Harbour Road 01797 225015 / 07980 290247 Rye TN31 7TE

Tony's Tackle Shop

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Trade In Tackle Maidstone Road, Wateringbury ME18 5EH 01622 814296 / 07941 085011

Angling Clubs & Societies

Bromley (Kent) & District AS PO Box 895, East Grinstead 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: steveiatt@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: robtuckbrown@hotmail.com

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