

The National Anguilla Club

BULLETIN

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vol: 19

no: 4

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EDITORIAL

Historically, match fishing and specimen hunting have proved to be so far removed from each other that they might almost be separate sports, whereas in fact they are two different activities within the same sporting sphere. But that is only how it appears on the surface. Yet if the aims and ambitions of both are carefully outlined to each of the parties, they can and often do start to appreciate the others point of view. This much I have learnt from attending meetings of the Lea Valley Anglers Consultative Association. The lesson is a simple one. Don't run the matchman down, but endeavour instead to get him to see our side of the sport.

Your contributions still trickle in and are very much appreciated by all concerned. It is clear from your letters to me and the many telephone calls I deal with that you all appreciate the hard work put in by Terry and Jan. But please do continue with your own efforts for the Bulletin, otherwise Terry and Jan would have nothing to do - and what would they get up to then?

Illness has plagued me every since the Spring meeting and consequently I have done no close season eel fishing at all. But I expect to make up for that once June 16th arrives.

I wish you all the best of results for the season ahead.

A J Sutton

CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

I hope that all those members who are able to fish for eels during the close season have got off on the right foot by catching fish, and for those members, who cannot fish in the close season in their own area, are looking forward to the Spring Trip on Bala Lake (by the time this appears in print, I am sure the spring trip will have come and gone, and I am sure you will have all caught fish and enjoyed yourselves, and preferably both). Our proposed link-up with the British Eel Anglers has hit a snag. John Sidley has informed me that certain members of his club take strong objection to being connected in any way to the NAC and it would appear that before John came to our meeting he did not ask his members if they approved of his involvement with us. I will keep members fully informed of any developments.

I spent an enjoyable week after Easter in Norfolk and was able to visit that famous tackle shop at Potter Heigham, Ken Latham's Piscatorial Paradise. I have purchased goods from the shop by mail order in the past but this was my first visit. I was very impressed by the tackle display, which is absolutely huge, and if any members are in the area I would recommend that they visit the shop and especially his bargain book department, which contains many fishing books at knock-down prices. I purchased an American book called

The Earth Worm Book, sub-title, How to Raise and Use Earth Worms for your Farm and Garden, which makes absolutely fascinating reading and I hope in the near future to use some of its contents as a base for articles on the humble worm. Ken Latham was selling wire eel traps at £28.00 each and although I would not wish to use them for their intended purpose they would seem to make ideal bait fish traps on the lines of the trap that Arthur Smith wrote about in a recent Bulletin. I also purchased another fascinating book about Nets and Coracles which goes into great detail, concerning coracle fishing, the netting and trapping of eels, salmon and trout in various rivers and estuaries throughout the British Isles. I have decided that a coracle is the ideal craft to be used for baiting up a swim and intend to make myself one, which will fit in the back of my car. The book contains all the necessary details for making a coracle and I feel that it will be much safer to use than the minute inflatable boat that I have got at the moment which has the awful habit of ejecting the air plug when I am in the middle of a lake. I will keep you fully informed of all developments concerning my coracle.

Dave Holman and myself always manage to get in a few sessions during the month of May and to be honest they have been decidedly unsuccessful during the last two years. Not only do we not catch fish, but we usually manage to select a night which turns out to have the worse weather of the year. A few weeks ago we decided to try an arm of the Shropshire Union Canal which we had not previously fished. As well as having no runs, we had to contend during the night with driving rain and gale force winds and I had decided by about 11 pm that discretion was a better part of valour, and that I would prefer to keep warm and have a nice sleep, which I did so. A few days after this I managed to slip in a trip on a Sunday night. I travelled to the lake not far from home, where I presumed as in previous years the season opened for coarse fishing on the 1 May. On arriving at the lake looking at my club book, to my horror I discovered the season this year did not start until the 15 May, so I had to make a quick dash over to the infamous Colemere (the subject matter of our ill-famed spring trip). It is a beautiful spot and the weather was absolutely perfect except for eel fishing. Although the sky at dusk was nicely clouded as soon as darkness came the sky cleared and the stars twinkled. It got very cold and at about 3 am I decided to put my head down (you may think I do nothing but sleep when I go fishing). I woke up at 5.30 am with the ground around me white with a heavy frost. Although we have been having a spell of good dry sunny weather recently the conditions at night have been absolutely disastrous for fishing, being as I said very clear and very cold. It is very frustrating and perhaps I have got some excuse for only reporting one bootlace from five sessions. Apart from a good spell in the first year that I joined the club my membership since to have held the worse period as far as results are concerned of my eel fishing career, has anybody got a suggestion as to why this should be. Perhaps it has got something to do with the fact that I now possess a bedchair, a biv, use four rods and have all the electrified paraphernalia that tell me when fish are biting. Constructive suggestions as to what I am doing wrong would be much appreciated.

As a final note I have for sale a Terry Eustace six foot specimen hunters holdall with four rod tubes in it, which last year cost me £23.00 which I will be prepared to sell for £12.00 or nearest offer.

CHAIRMAN'S PAGE - Cont'd

Would interested parties please contact me. As I suggested some time back, I am sure we have all got odd items of tackle we no longer use, which we would be prepared to swap or sell via the Bulletin and I am sure this would make interesting reading, so please write in with items for an exchange and mark section.

Mark Davies

 ANGUILLA THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

I was interested to read a part in that excellent book "Carp Fever" by Rev Maddocks in which he states he keeps a large tank in his living room which contains several carp on which he tries his various rigs and baits.

It reminded me that last Easter the whole family visited the Lake District for a holiday and while there I spent hours chasing bootlaces (nothing changes) from under the boulders of the River Lowther. I eventually caught a 7" specimen and strided ashore with my butterfly net, me bursting with pride at the capture of the prize. Nearby the wife and kids were leaning over the old stone bridge "Just look at you" she said "if Arthur Sutton and the rest of those eel anglers could see you now".

On returning home the eel was released into our 2' tank and promptly disappeared under the gravel. We spent hours staring into the clear waters trying to find him, until three days later our Sherlock Holmes daughter found one dehydrated eel under the carpet.

A couple of months later I had practically given up the hope of coming across any eels small enough to put into a tank. "Should I give Ernie a ring" I thought "he's the master with bootlaces". But no, life's too short to wait for Ernie to catch one.

I visited a 20 acre pool in Shropshire and was interested when the farmer informed me that the Severn Trent Authority had recently stocked the pool with eels. Highly commendable except that whenever a bait hit the bottom a minute bootlace was reeled in - in fact there is too many eels in there now.

The following morning I watched the margins as dozens of small eels wriggled in and out of the mud. I reached for the small meshed landing net and waded out towards them. Now I am no stranger to taking to the water in pursuit of eels but usually they are larger than these 7"-10" specimens.

I caught four eels and a wader full of water. One of the eels died en route back but the others were soon dropped into the aquarium. This time a close fitting lid was positioned to stop them climbing out.

ANGUILLA THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS - Cont'd

Very rarely have I ever watched eels feeding in their natural surroundings (if a tank can be called that) but here was a chance to test out a few ideas and perhaps the odd bait additive. The eels spent the majority of the time buried in the gravel with their heads sticking out for a week or so. They remained uninterested in any baits I dropped in.

First indication that they were feeding was the disappearance of two tiny gudgeon which the kids called Pinky and Perky. Both these went for the big sleep. The other fish also had signs of aggression printed all over them, lumps went missing from fins, another lost an eye and yet the maggots and worms that I threw in got ignored.

I watched for hours until I saw just how those eels were ambushing the fish and having a bite at them as they swam past. Fortunately for them (the wife was getting upset about her "proper" fish getting chewed) they did begin to feed on the worms and stopped attacking the other inmates. Now I would be the last person to draw any firm conclusion from just three eels in a 10 gallon tank but I was very keen to see just how these eels fed.

Firstly they immediately detected the difference between various foods dropped into the tank. The flake was ignored, the eels did not even come out of the gravel for it, but drop in the worms or maggots - immediately they were out and prowling for food. Now I had previously thought that eels were the best fish at detecting a bait in water but my three specimens really did make me think again. They could smell the bait in the water this was certain but locating it was proving difficult, their method was to systematically search the bed of the tank and they relied on actually crashing into the food before taking it. They could not see it whether the lights in the tank were on or off.

When just two or three maggots were left on the bottom they would search and search every crevice sometimes for long periods before finally locating and eating them.

Secondly the way the eels took a bait was quite amazing, when they found a worm it would simply disappear to the back of the throat and be chewed and swallowed. Even big (by comparison to their size) baits would disappear straight down the chute. If all eels swallow food in this manner then its little wonder that they easily detect and reject a wrongly presented bait and also if accepted that we hook so many of our eels in the gut.

Quite honestly I think this is a problem which will be always with us because on first detecting a bite on small baits it is likely the eel is deep hooked the moment the alarm sounds.

Next I looked at surface baits and no question the eels would freely visit the top especially for floating maggots, although trying to get them to do it while I had my camera set up ready to record the event is proving difficult.

ANGUILLA THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS - Cont'd

On another occasion I experimented with various different baits, pellets of cheese were dropped in and ignored and it was not until they got onto the fact that cheese was good to eat did they show any enthusiasm and to do this I had to drop small pieces in quite regularly.

Next I tried amino acids or rather glycin but with little success. Whether the baits were treated or not they all got the same response from the eels and this went for pilchard oil, EPO liquidised worms, carp specials, aniseeds and other various mixes. However, I shall keep experimenting and one day I will drop in a mix that will send those eels daft and then chaps you can watch out, Arthur Sutton has won that "best eel" cup for the last time.

Dave Holman

Editor's comment on Dave Holman's article

A nice piece, Dave, and worthy of comment from the Editor.

I, too, have at times kept small eels in a tank for observation and it is a pastime I would recommend to all our members. It is easy enough to set up, but not always as easy to procure the right-sized eels. I think that six or seven inches in length is about right. If one starts with tiny elvers nothing is learnt except perhaps that tiny eels can be hard to rear - plagued as they are with digestive problems. If you are forced to make a start with tiny elvers, then be guided as to their food requirements. Do not attempt to give them anything too large. Daphnia, brine shrimps, gnat larvae and tubifex worms are all ideal. It is important to ensure that only enough is given at any one time to satisfy the eels requirements.

Note Dave's comments with regard to the escape of the eel. A close fitting glass cover is essential!

The greatest fun I ever had, and the nearest I ever came to being divorced, was when I fed the surplus guppies from the wife's tropical tank to my pet eels. It was with great interest that I used to sit up half the night waiting for the eels to launch their assault on the poor guppies, and more than interesting to note their tactics relative to the close proximity of their fellow eels. That is one reason why I would advocate the keeping of several eels of similar size. Oh, and don't forget that big eels are very partial to little eels.

A YEAR FLOATING BY?

Many things have been written lately about sub-surface float fishing for eels. As the close season is now upon us, it is time to think.

A YEAR FLOATING BY? - cont'd

My winter pike fishing was all done with floats, just to get my confidence using a float. Once the confidence was back it was easier to think about things.

The first thing I thought about was an eel finding a bait in mid-water. Would sight or sense of smell lead him to the bait? My findings on some waters was that on a moonlit night, bottom baits were useless.

Right, now picture yourself sitting in an armchair looking out of your window at dusk with the light off. You can see out, but if you turn the light on you cannot see beyond the window. But if you go outside you can see in. So if you are inside in the dark you can see, but when the light is on you cannot. So if the eel is in the dark looking up towards the moonlight he may see the silhouette of the bait. Then if he is looking down on a moonlight night he is in the light looking into the dark so he cannot see anything.

Now then, an eel hunts by scent so the above is rubbish, so why don't they feed on moonlit nights on the bottom?

Many hours thinking has come up with the above solution. I think it would be a good idea if an eel has good eyesight and a poor sense of smell. Is an eel's sense of sight under-estimated? Nevertheless I will be using floats next year. I think every one of us should give it a whirl. The only way we will really understand it is by experimenting, so come on lets find out, even if you do it on one rod only.

What I intend to do is first, a float fished bait which is left up against a weed bed. With the wind behind you, you can drift a float to it. Then when the bait is in position I intend to use a drop-off indicator. If the eel moves away from the bank, the buzzer will sound, if the eel moves towards the bank the weight of the arm will take up the slack and drop, sounding the buzzer. Heavier line will be needed but I will be fishing for bites.

In carp fishing a useful tactic is a freelined bait cast across the top of a lily patch with the bait just in the water, so why not for eels?

My second method would be a bait presented in open water, either a drifting bait or a patanosted bait. I was put off at first by the thought of having to keep on casting as one float drifts past the other or someone crosses you as your float passes through his swim. I am very lazy and I am going to try it, why not you?

If someone at the end of the season has caught an eel he would not have caught on bottom baits, it must have been worth it. So go on - float a bait. It will be my first season at it, and I'm looking forward to it.

Everyone must have a plan, this is mine and a lot more thinking has to be done, baits, striking, depth and terminal tackle. Once everyone has written their end-of-season reports a lot more facts should come to life.

A YEAR FLOATING BY? - Cont'd

Finally, imagine a tree-lined lake, water lillies and in the margins a good growth of rushes. Come the autumn all the leaves find their way into the water. As the water warms bacteria starts to break down the leaves, thus leaving the bottom of the lake smelling foul. Could this smell mask the scent of a bait? Has any member found that tree-lined lakes are less productive with bottom baits?

Have a good time at Bala at a good year.

Bob Layland

Editor's comment on Bob Layland's article

One thing I would like to make very clear, having now had two full seasons of sub-surface eel fishing, is that I do not even try to keep a floating bait at some distance from the bank. Instead, I let the whole assembly of tackle drift back right into the bank. It usually does this some little way from where I am stationed, and it is from there - right against the reed stems, where I get most of my runs (and eels). I think it is what may be known as making the best use of the water, for while a bait might be found quite easily by an eel running along the margins, that is not the case with a bait out in the middle of the lake. An eel would then have to criss-cross the lake fairly efficiently to come across your bait. And I believe that an eel normally would have to search, for I do not attach too much credence to the story put out by those who know little about the subject that as soon as your bait hits the water an eel several hundred yards away will know all about it and could find it easily if it so desired. Poppycock.

A few words, Bob, about the evil-smelling margins. Earlier, under Dr Coulson, the Anguilla Club asked questions regarding those waters where the margins smelled evil when disturbed. This was part of our session reporting scheme and water questionnaire. The facts were, that some of the best eel waters in the country had these evil pong characteristics. It seemed not to detract from good eel fishing. Why?

When dead leaves or other detritus in the water decompose the result is the formation of certain gases. One of these you will know as marsh gas or methane. The awful pong which we smell when we disturb the deposits at the edge of a lake do not pervade the whole water - and even if they did they would not smell the same to the fish or eels. Pockets of such gas are formed and remain where they are until disturbed. They are then released and give rise to the smell which is akin to my welly socks after a week-long stint. The only real effect on the inhabitants of the lake will be a lowering of the oxygen level, for that gas is used up in large amounts in the formation of the other obnoxious gases. Were eels put off at all by such smells, it is not likely that they would go anywhere near the bottom, let alone tunnel into it. Science shows that a "smelly" bait could even appear more smelly to the fish in such a situation.

WATCHING AND WAITING

Occasionally, something written in the Bulletin provides sufficient inspiration for several members to put pen to paper.

Being in the fortunate position of seeing Bulletin material before it is actually published should give me ample opportunity to strike while the iron is hot, and air my views, but apathy being the insidious affliction it is, the majority of thoughts and observations slip by without ever seeing the light of day.

So whilst the mood takes me, I shall have my two-penny worth on a couple of subjects which appear in this Bulletin.

Firstly, Dave Holman has set down some of his observations of his aquatic "floorshow" and their habits. Arthur Sutton has added his comments on the interest derived from watching "wriggley" behaviour in a tank and I thought I'd add some of my own observations.

In the fishing lodge at work, we have two large aquariums. Both tanks have held a variety of fish at different times, but basically, one tank held rainbow trout 4"-5", and the other tank held coarse fish (mainly carp (small commons), small roach and rudd) and each tank ended up with one small eel. I say ended up with, because one tank did initially contain two eels. Incidentally, the three eels were all between 6" and 8". We did have a similar experience to Dave's "Dehydrated Houdini".

This all started when the two sharing eels spent their first couple of days tending to pursue each other around the tank. Things then apparently calmed down with the eels happily buried beneath the gravel in both tanks, the only evidence of their continued presence being occasional upheavals of the gravel as they moved around.

After about a week, one of the two sharing eels (the smaller of the two) was found in a very sorry and dead condition in amongst the wiring and hoses for the pumps and filters between the two tanks.

The questions I would ask are: Did the "escapee" get out because it wanted to? Or: Was it forced out by its slightly larger companion seeking to establish its own territory?

Even considering the remarkably gymnastic abilities of small eels, the only possible escape route would have presented severe obstacles to even the most determined wanderer. Obviously, the departure of the one eel led to the apparently settled behaviour of the remaining eel.

Over the following weeks and months, the behaviour of both eels remained very similar, almost parallel existences in fact. After the initial "settling in" period with each eel in a tank of its own, diligent searching of the bottom of the tanks would reveal the eels snouts just showing through the gravel.

I should say at this point that due to the public nature of the tanks, they do tend to suffer a lot of disturbance and peering into, which probably accounted for the relatively slow progress of the eels in performing as it were. However, they did eventually appear to tolerate the unnatural disturbances to a degree and would remain out of hiding for gradually longer periods.

WATCHING AND WAITING - Cont'd

As time passed, the eels gradually would show more of themselves though never showing any real interest in their surroundings or the other fish or in feeding.

After a month or so, the eels could regularly be seen with up to 2/3 of their body length out of the gravel either laying along the bottom, or at an angle of about 45° but still showing no real signs of interest in their company, they simply "lollied" about.

These observations were made during darkness as well as daylight and though the night-time viewing was limited to two hours at most, there were signs of an increase in activity as darkness approached, though this increase was relatively slight.

I can't honestly say that I really saw the eels feeding, but the competition from the other fish in the tank at feeding times was such that the eels staying on the bottom of the tank would have to depend on stray food items reaching to bottom to survive.

However, the frequency of feeding and the ham-fished nature of some of the people providing the food ensured that more than sufficient food reached the bottom of the tank.

The staple diet of all the fish was trout fry food, but I did my utmost to provide a variety in the diet and all of the following were used at times: worms, maggots, bloodworm, daphnia, snails, insect larvae, crane flies and earwigs.

Dave's observations as to the manner in which the eels bumbled around the tank in search of food are very similar. The eels would proceed painfully slowly around the tanks prodding their snouts into every nook and cranny in the gravel apparently oblivious of any clearly visible food items within an inch or two of their noses. It never really occurred to me to try any additives or mixtures to check responses, and the tanks were drained and the fish removed last Autumn. The eels were released to a better life in the reservoir.

The tanks have recently been refilled and restocked, but alas no eels as yet. If I can get hold of a couple, then who knows what may come to light.

There were signs that the eels had not been totally inactive however. As with Dave's experiences, the other fish in the tanks displayed curiously shaped fins, where a neatly shaped piece was missing, normally the pectoral or pelvic fins. Clear indications that some "ambushing" had taken place. Not only that, but the 3" to 4" crayfish were slowly being immobilised by the occasional removal of a leg or two!!

Having rambled on long enough on that subject, I would like to make a few comments on the subject of sub-surface baits.

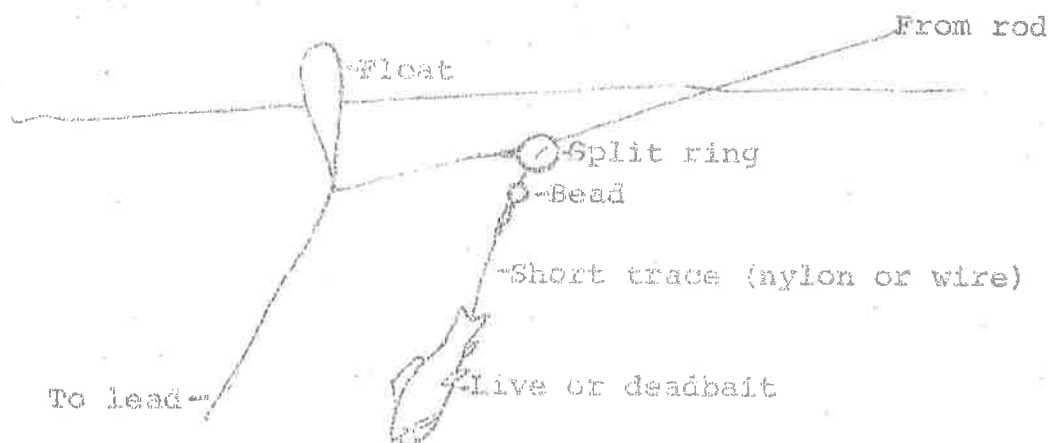
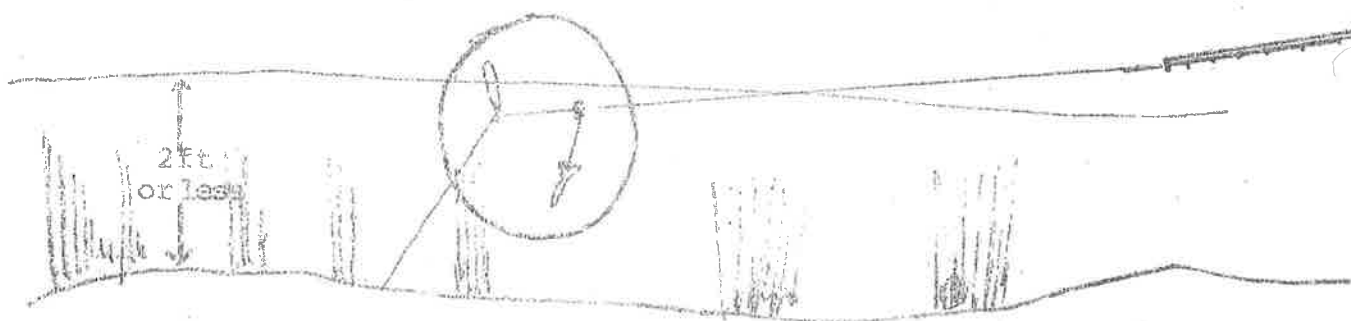
At the outset I have to say that the original idea of a free-roving bait put me off the suggestion completely, but having given the principle a fair amount of thought, I intend to give a variation of the method a try, but in a particularly location where the terminal rig can be controlled, particularly as the water I am concentrating on would make a free-roving bait virtually irretrievable in no time at all due to the mass of overhanging branches and submerged snags.

WATCHING AND WAITING - Cont'd

The diagram should be fairly self explanatory, and the rig would obviously be well suited to the shallow nature of the area to be fished, much of it less than 2' deep and with a mass of small islands and bars, there are plenty of possible bait positions to cover in the hope of intercepting a feeding eel.

I look forward to giving the method an extended trial this year and not with just deadbaits. Small livebaits fished on this rig might produce some interesting results.

As I said earlier, at first, I was quite prepared to dismiss the idea of sub-surface baits out of hand. Not so now. Perhaps you know of a water where a shallow approach may suit, or perhaps you have other variations to suggest.



Terry Jefferson

DON'T MISS IT - SUMMER TRIP '82

Situated in New Hythe village just off of the A228 in Kent is a series of well-established gravel pits known as Johnsons Lakes. The name comes from the fact that a Mr Denis Johnson owns them.

As can be seen from the map the first one encountered is called the Boat Lake, don't be put off by the name as no plastic admirals venture on to its surface. This pit is also the closest to the pub and shops and is a favourite of the lazier regulars, as the car parking is excellent and the fishing just as good, if not the best, of all the pits. Whilst on the subject of car parking it is a feature of Johnsons that there is not one area on any of the pits that requires a really long walk and as long as cars are carefully positioned there are no worries about sticking to defined car parks. If you do park somewhere wrongly, either another angler or Bert the bailiff will advise you fairly quickly where you should park.

The Boat Lake can accommodate about 60 anglers comfortably and unless someone catches a record tench there, before August, then there should be no problems in getting a swim. Most of the swims are fairly level and spacious without lots of trees or things getting in the way. Weed can be a problem in most areas but last season it was no real threat. The swims vary in depth from 12 inches to 20 feet and very sharp dropoffs and bars are common in the majority of swims, a little thought and careful plumbing can really pay dividends in this respect.

The eels seem pretty well spread out in the Boat Lake and although Mick Bowles of the British Eel Anglers Club regards the Boat Lake as very hard for eels, I personally feel that it is probably the easiest of the three lakes, but we are all entitled to our own opinion (if Mick turns up I'll try and prove it).

The Boat Lake has, in the NW corner, a small channel that leads to the second of the lakes known as the Island lake. The name is obvious once seen, as the lake consists of a number of bars that virtually dissected the lake into several small pools. This lake is the smallest of the three and the most awkward to fish as most of the banks are steep or give only small swims. Very similar to the Boat Lake in depth and weed content, the Island Lake boasts some of the best roach fishing in Kent (that's my opinion anyway). The eels are a bit of a mystery as no-one (to my knowledge) has seriously fished the Island Lake for them. I intend to give the Island Lake a couple of nights during our stay so maybe we will see some results from it.

By following the track past the Boat and Island Lakes one comes to the largest of Johnsons Lakes, called the Railway Lake. This is definitely the hardest lake of the three but probably holds the largest number of eels, although the extreme richness of the water makes for difficult fishing. A big open water with very little apparent in features, the Railway Lake has several bars and underwater plateaus. The lake has extensive weedbeds and is generally deep, over 12 feet, with the weed growing in big banks some rising to 8 feet from the bottom. All the banks are comfortable to fish and it is quieter than the other two lakes, as long as you don't mind the trains rumbling along the east bank, on their way to the Medway towns.

The eels of Railway seem to be larger than those of the other two lakes but it is fair to say that more eel angling has been done here than on the Boat and Island Lakes.

DON'T MISS IT - SUMMER TRIP '82 - Cont'd

Species present in all three lakes are tanch to 8lb+ (especially Boat Lake), Bream to 9lb, Roach to 2½lb (especially Island Lake, Pike to 30lb+, Carp to 35lb+ (very few but very big), Crucians to 3lb+, Perch to 2lb and of course the eels, which I believe are present up to 7lb in all of the lakes. Bait catching is no real problem as all the lakes give up their small roach fairly easily to maggots.

The pub is only 15 yards from the Boat Lake and the shops are a short stroll (¼ mile) up the hill towards Larkfield. There is also a train station in New Hythe about 500 yards from the lakes with a 'phone box about 100 yards past the station outside the Fire Station. Before I forget it, there is also a shop-cum-general store some 200 yards up the hill from the pub.

The facilities at Johnsons are excellent and I believe that with support from members it could, no ~~WOULD~~, be a very successful club trip, if not the best ever. The cost of fishing Johnsons is £9.00 for a season ticket, this is needed to allow one to night fish. A Southern Water Authority rod licence is also needed, but to be honest I have never bought one and have never been asked for one. Check with Bert the Bailiff as to whether the Authority have been round, when you purchase your season ticket off him. Bert is the one on the moped and is a rather helpful sort of bloke, not given to telling tall stories, in fact he can be a mine of information if treated with respect. Three rods are allowed without much fuss, but don't be silly and upset Bert.

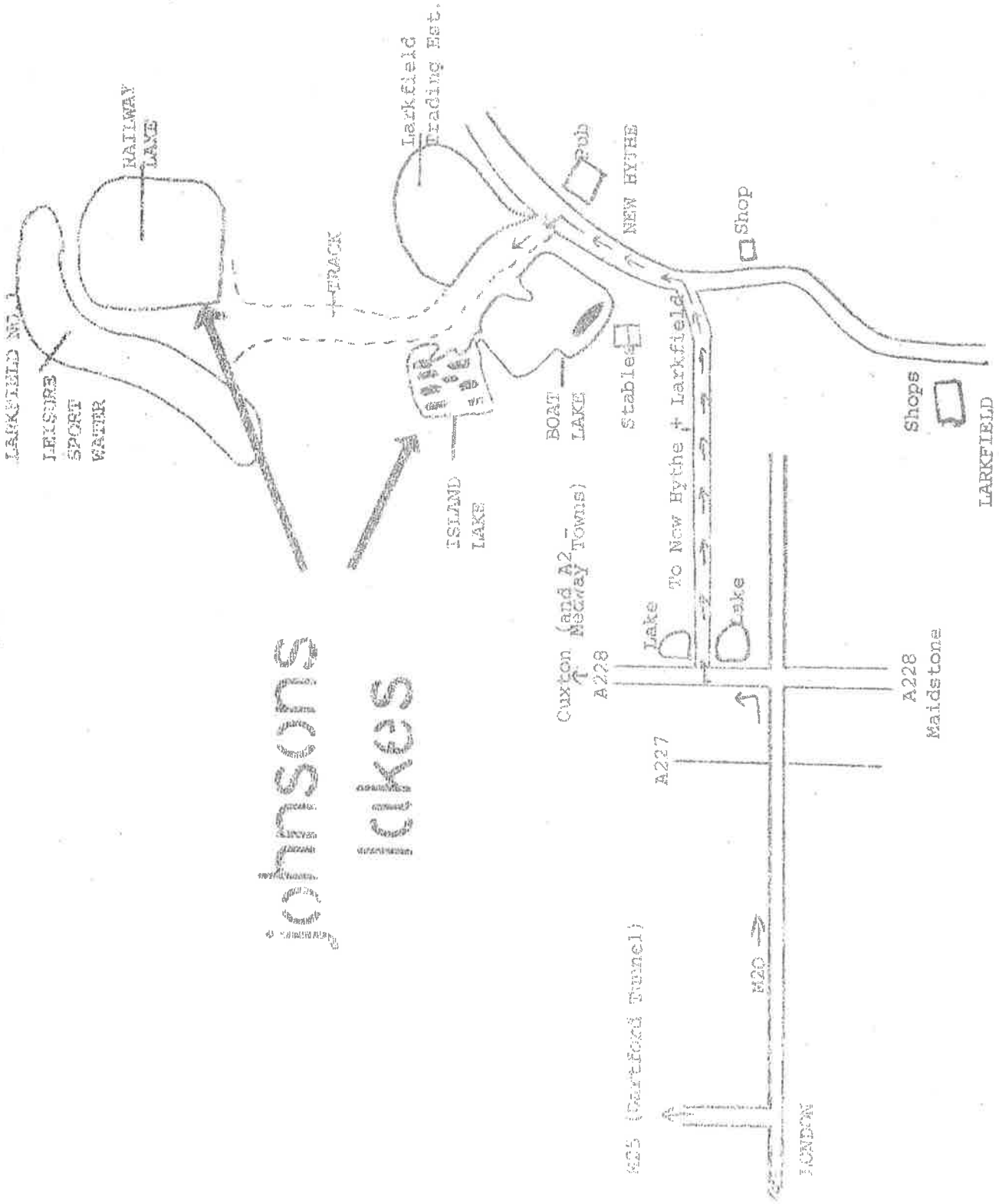
Golly, Bob, Dan and myself will be arriving on the Sunday 23rd and will be in the pub (The Bricklayers) until about 2.30. Golly and Bob will, I understand, be on the Railway Lake for most of the week and as I will be moving about a bit, it will be sensible if anyone arriving after Sunday goes to the Railway Lake to find out where we all are. I sincerely hope that some of our Northern members can make the long journey south as I really do feel you will find it worth while. After all, Golly had three 3lb+ eels here on last year's summer trip and only three of us turned up. That hurt me a bit; this year I hope to see more faces and even more eels.

SEE YOU THERE.

Dave Walker

DIRECTIONAL INFORMATION MAP FOR JOHNSONS LAKES

From London proceed down M20 to A228. Turn left onto A228 towards Cuxton, then take the first right to New Hythe. Follow road down to T-junction and turn left. After passing the pub on your right look for entrance to Larkfield Trading Estate on the left. Turn into Estate then onto track down side of Lake.



Johnsons Lakes

Editor's comment on Dave Walker's article

I heartily agree with all that Dave has said regarding Johnsons Lakes. A better venue for a Club Summer Trip would be very hard to find. Baits easy to catch at most times or, if lazy like me, ask a lad to spare a few from his keepnet. Facilities are good, but above all the water does produce eels. Even Dave Smith used to catch them!

There is a lake in the same complex which Dave has not mentioned for obvious reasons. That lake is known as Larkfield, and it is a Leisure Sport Water. Although Larkfield Lake is joined to Railway Lake by a narrow channel, the two waters are a little dissimilar. The weed growth or, rather, the variety of weed is more varied in Larkfield. Also, it does not see anything like the same number of anglers as Railway. It produces good carp, tench and eels to 7½lb, and would be well worth an extensive trial if you belong to Leisure Sport.

I will be setting up camp on Larkfield and, like David, hope to see a fair number of you at "Johnsons" for the Summer Trip.
