

1989

# NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB BULLETIN

VOLUME 26

No. 2



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EDITORS PAGE

Well here we are again another bulletin. This one as you may have seen is rather larger than the last, and I would like to thank all those who contributed, especially Dave Taylor And John Sidley who both have provided a couple of articles and more for the next Bulletin, and thanks to all the other members who bothered to write.

The mag this time has photocopies of photographs in which have come out better than I had expected, I have noticed that the pics come out best if I use the original photographs, so anyone out there that wants to become famous send one in to me, if you can make it a 10 x 8 that would be great and I would return it as soon as possible, I promise. The front cover for this bulletin has a picture of Kevin Huish, with a 3lb 12oz eel he looks like he is desperatley trying to stretch into 4lb. Ironbridge Publications have sponsored this bulletin in return for the adverts you will see inside, there is also a page called bull shit for the bulletin which was an idea of Dave Taylors in it are the stupid little ideas that help you when fishing, that maybe someone else could use. Please send in any ideas that could be used plus pictures if relevant as I love drawing them.

I went on the club trip to Wales and enjoyed myself immensely. Kevin Huish was a great host and I met some new members and ones that I had met before. The first day Kevin and Dave Taylor was at Orchard Pool by Llyswen, Dave and Kevin both had eels and I blanked (but I had the prettiest rod set up) In the morning Kevin invited Dave & myself over for tea and he gave us a totally complete description of his breakfast that morning, he had had the lot, ( we brummies call it the works). Dave ate chum mixers all night and I had had two sarnies. It was our own fault we were just to lazy to bring our cookers. Next time I'm taking my double burner, my bar-b-q and a fridge full of food. Anyway the rest of the trip is told in Dave Taylors article. I managed a few eels on Llangorse and an eel of 1 1/2lb with the biggest mouth I have ever seen (no snide remarks please) We met Andy West and his mate Tim Palmer there, they had come the night before at Llyswen but could not find Orchard Pool as they had been travelling for 5 hours and turned up at 10.30pm in the dark. They also ran out of petrol, not unusual as they ran out on Loch Lomand earlier in the year. Chris Brown turned up at Orchard Pool on his bike (Motor not push). He then duly annoyed all the Carp Anglers by taking a 10lb Carp on a Roach Tail, it seems he makes a habit of this also.

Anyway thanks Kevin for a most enjoyable weekend. On Sunday morning on my way home I found the best cafe I have been in for ages and while I was eating the works, I realised why we did not have a bigger turnout, Saturday night was the biggest night of the year, it was the eurovision song contest.

Dont forget your subs were due last November, and many of you have not paid up yet. Dave Tylors article on Pete Stickland was good but the 2 photos of eels he sent quite baffled me. Anyway Pete now yours chance to get your own back you have to write a profile on him, make the photos good. Any juicy Gossip about our members will go down well also, we could start up a Gossip column as some of the other mags do.

I went to John Sidleys house the other day begging a photo and could have stayed all day looking at his albums they are brilliant, if you wish to go please send off to John and buy a visitors ticket, 15% discount for N.A.C. members 20% anybody else (we'll split the proceeds 50 50 ay John).

I also sneaked in to Upton Warren the other day, to see the British Eel Anglers Club fishing. there was not much caught only a 6lb 14oz a 5, two 3's and many boots, Mike Bowles has the capture of the 6lb 14oz and the 5lb on video from start to finish, some film ay. The only blot on the Landscape was Jerry Parkins Shorts they were horrific, or was it his shape? anyway he gets first prise for the longest pee of the weekend, My misses and son counted to 128 before he zipped back up again, thats what comes from going on the p... on the dinner time.

Has anybody got any ideas on a venue for a club trip, please reply ask around for a water near you, it dosent have to be ultra good, even an unfished water. Thats what Upton Warren was, give it some thought please. Kevin Huish has been conned into the job of records officer he needs reports of catches and photos, read his page. Lastly I have enclosed a directory of members why dont you get in touch with your local members and have a fish together, it could be worth while. I have got to go now I hope you enjoy the bulletin and dont forget I am starting on the next mag now so keep on writing, even a note will get into the letters page, and dont forget the ideas for the Bull Shit page.

Nick Rose.

RECORDS OFFICER  
Kevin Huish

At the spring meeting it was decided that it would be a good idea to restore the position of Records Officer. I was proposed and duly elected and now have to encourage you the Membership, to report the eels you catch to me. To start with there will be no size limit unless I am overwhelmed by eels weighing no more than 1 or 2 lb. I especially want to hear from any member who catches a personal best. Recording venues is a sticky subject so I will not be naming waters unless the member has given me permission. Otherwise it will be for example: A South Wales pit, A Welsh River, or A Midland Lake. On the subject of baits, in the past, Angullia Club surveys indicate certain baits score more than others, it is therefore of great interest which ones are now scoring best on the bigger eels.

I will also record any information that the member may wish to give. All the eel catches will then be reported back through the bulletin. I and probably most of you take great pleasure in reading about big eels. It will also act as a barometer for the interest in the National Angullia Club. I will be purchasing a photo album, and will need photos of your eels to fill it. Again personal bests will be most welcome, but most importantly remember the album is yours.

"The National Angullia Club Photo Album".

This will be available at the meetings for anyone to browse through, so please send photos now. This can also be used for a stand at the National Angling Show, held every year by N.A.S.A. Finally, may I wish every member good eeling in 1989. DO NOT FORGET to send me photos of your eels.

Kevin Huish.

EDITORS NOTE: Kevin rang me and says we now have 2 albums the second one for large 10"x8" inch photos specifically for use at the Angling Shows.

# IRONBRIDGE

'WATERS EDGE' 6 HOLMER LANE,



TEL: 0952 591131

# PUBLICATIONS

STIRCHLEY, TELFORD, SHROPSHIRE TF3 1QJ.

## MY WAY WITH CHUB

by TONY MILES

"Tony Miles' book on chub is far and away one of the best modern day angling books I have had the pleasure to read - I rate Tony Miles as one of the best specialist anglers around - A truly excellent book that every angler should have on the bookshelf." Specialist Fishing, March/April 1989.

"Tony Miles' new book kept me absorbed for ages - this is a book about watercraft and understanding of the quarry - for just under £15 you get the wisdom of one of the country's finest river fishermen and some pictures of very big chub that will get you reaching for your quiver rod and setting off for the nearest brook." Anglers Mail 18/3/89.

"My Way With Chub by Tony Miles has an impeccable pedigree - a success rate that marks him as one of the country's leading all-round specimen anglers - the book is a cracker in every way, lovingly written and beautifully illustrated - it can't fail to help any angler - the author's sheer enthusiasm for chub." Coventry Evening Telegraph, 19/11/88.

- \* Size approx. 230 x 160mm
- \* Approx. 60,000 words
- \* Approx. 200 pages
- \* Over 30 colour photographs plus many more in black and white.
- \* £14.95, hardback only, P & P free.
- \* I.S.B.N. No. 0 9509168 7 0

This book describes Tony's attitude towards chub fishing. An approach that has brought him almost 60 over 5lb with 3 over 6lb. The reader cannot fail to experience the dedication and methodical attitude required to achieve such outstanding success. The reader will find this book hard to put down and will be a book to return to again and again. No angler can read this book without improving their mental and physical approaches to angling in general. The book is an ideal companion to Tony's other book, 'Silver Season - Golden Memories' - which concentrates on Tony's very successful 25th season as a specialist angler, and also Phil Smith's book, 'Rainbows End - The Search For Big Fish'. Both books priced at £15.95 - post free - from the publisher below or any good specialist tackle shop or general book shop.

Ironbridge Publications, "Waters Edge", 6 Holmer Lane, Stirchley, Telford. Shropshire. TF3 1QJ. (cheques payable to 'Ironbridge Publications' - please print your name and address clearly - give your postcode) (trade enquiries welcome)

# IS EEL TACKLE STRONG ENOUGH

John Sidley.

I Have for many years been saying that the downfall of the very large snakes, those we all dream of catching will come to the angler who can find out what those eels feed on and how he can present those baits on the tackle we use today, i.e. 11ft rods with test curves between 1½- 2½, lines of 14lb, wire traces upto 14lb and all sizes of hooks upto 02's. From my past experiences and that of other eel anglers and of knowing of eels swimming in our waterways well above the present British record of 11.02oz I am now becoming more convinced that the tackle we are using will fail to put that monster on the bank.

I now here you all shout what about that present record, It was landed on a size 8 hook 1b line and a light ledger rod, for Steven Terry was carp fishing at the time on Kingfisher lake. I agree but in all fishing there will be the odd monster caught on light tackle, without taken anything off the angler who has achieved the above, those captures have been pure luck with the fish being hooked in snag free swims, for if one talks to Steven Terry about the capture of his eel there was never any danger of the eel snagging itself up, infact Steven gave free line to the eel for he first thought he had hooked a big carp, and believe me if there had been any snags the eel would never have reached the net.

If I had been an eel angler on Kingfisher Lake that day in June 1978, I dare say the swim I would be fishing would like an underwater jungle, for that is the kind of swim eels usually love. What chance would you have had of putting that 11.02oz on the bank, Speaking for myself I would say none at all for as I have said before I doubt whether my tackle would be strong enough in such terrain.

I have myself hooked at least three eels which I know 2 would have weighed over 10lb, one eel I saw in the margins, the full story of which is in the re print of my eel book, so I will not dwell on it any further, (now theres a plug to buy a book). All I will say is that I never gained an inch of line trying to bring the eel in only when the eel swam towards me. My Good freind Gerry Rodgers will tell you of an eel he hooked using three 1b test carbons 12lb line, yet Gerry could not do nothing with that eel, sadley the strain was to much for his line and it parted company, we know there are no snags in that swin or heavy mud for the eel to have dived into, it was just slowly backing off, some snake ay. I have been talking to some fellow eel anglers who have lost large eels and now they are stepping up to 3lb test rods 25lb line and wire traces to suit. I must admit with my own past experiences of that 7lb.14oz eel I hooked at Westwood Park, when I struck to set the hook home my 2lb test rods stopped and bent double and 14lb line was singing in the breeze, all I could do for ages was hang on. I often think what the outcome would have been if I had hooked that eel in the jungle swims we usually fish. Yet saying all the above and unlike my fellow eel anglers who are stepping up their gear I will at present carry on using my JS eel rod 2lb oz curve 12lb line on my Mitchell 300S reels and my wire traces of 15lb PDQ. Tackle I feel will never be able to subdue the monster snakes in the type of terrain I go searching for them, I also think the reason why we do not hook more of the big eels is because we are using the wrong hook baits. Gerry says to me I am crazy carrying on eeling knowing that the two main factors i.e. bait & tackle will prevent me from catching me my dream double figure eel, and why do I carry on. The answer is simple





first I love eels and eeling and secondly I just hope one day or night just like Steven Terry that dream eel will drop a clanger, in the mean time I will be happy landing the eels I do catch, after all not every eel has to be big to be butifull does it.

So take it from me you do not have that little bit of luck behind you when you hook that monster snake, the tackle I dare say you are using will never be able to put it on the bank, for if you have ever had the pleasure of playing an eel of 5lb's and over just ask an angler who has, for the fight is truly out of this world. The present eel record I know will fall one day I hope its on my next eel trip if not it may fall when I'm long dead, but I wont be surprised to see one day an eel landed in this Country in excess of 20lb, but going back to the purpose of this article I will say once again without that bit of luck and the big eel dropping a clanger I can not see the tackle we are using today putting one of those monsters onto the bank. I think I will put some rod rings on the wife's line prop and use a washing line with trace wire to suit. A joke? I **WONDER**.

J.S.

← MY 7lb 14oz EEL FROM WESTWOOD.



7  
Pete  
Stickland

2 lb +



20 lb +

The pose never change's  
but at least the fish grow

(WHAT ARE THEY HYBRID EEL'S

? OR WHAT)

# A PROFILE OF PETE STICKLAND (STYX)

Pete Stickland and myself decided that instead of writing a article for the bulletin about ourseleves, we would write about eachother. Here then is the Pete Stickland story as I know it.

Pete is a keen and very good angler. He is one of the best all round Anglers I have had the pleasure to fish with. Pete and myself first started fishing together in about 1977, at that time Pete had already had a string of good fish, including 3lb Chub and a 1½lb Roach (caught on luncheon meat). At that time we were both 13 and fished for anything that swam, irrelevant of size. we were both at the same school together and it was there that we meet Brian Crawford.

Brian introduced us to an new aspect of angling, the specimen hunting scene. We now turned our backs on the Gudgeon and Bleak and started to concentrate on bigger things. Brian gave us the best of his knowledge taking Pete and I most weekends. Peter was persuaded by Brian and myself to join the N.A.C. in 1982. He had had eels to 3.06 and we though he would be an asset to the club (amazing how wrong one can be). When Brian left to go to Telford it left Pete and I to find new waters without Brians help. It was here that our fish lists may a rappid rise upwards. This was due to the fact that we could now fish all the private waters were Brian would not Venture.

Pete has had good fish of all species particularly Pike and Eels I dont think he can count the number of 3lb+ eels and double figure Pike he has caught. Unfortunately I can not fish with Pete as much now as I used to due to my move westward, However we have planned some sessions for the coming season.

## PETES CLAIM TO FAME.

Eel	4.05
Pike	8 Twenties to 24.12
Carp	20.04 (Jammy Git)
Tench	5.08
Roach	2.02
Zander	8.08
Chub	4.04
Bream	7.06

N.B. Pete is also a very competent match angler and can give the best match man a run for his money, particularly on the Nene.

Dave Taylor.

## ARTICLE TIME AGAIN

Dear Nick.

Thanks for paying the subs--- love it. I have enclosed a copy of the Severn Trent letter, re: proposed three rod limits (notice no letter was sent them by NAC). I sent a fifty name petition from the shop.

We need people on thses consultative committæes either as club representatives or from our umberella group NASA, If all the clubs mentioned had included a pullout letter in their mags so that all you had to do was sign and send off (F--- the stamp) 15 letters would seem like a piss in the ocean.

I'm sure those who already hold commitee positions in those clubs have more of an idea (or can find out) how to obtain consultative positions and creat a position within the club for the various water authorities consultant. We are being led up blind allys and loseing more than we gain i.e. one metre between rods.

For f--- sake lets get our act together before its to late and I'm selling golf clubs instead of fishing tackle. For those of you who are interested in reading a fuller account of my views , Lengthier letters have been sent to BEAC, NASA, PAC, CS, CAA and PAC. As I think the active membership of the angulla club is Nick Rose, John Sidley and Myself who will recieve at least one of the other publications.

Despondently Yours.

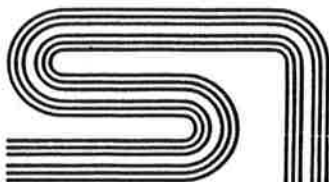
Jerry.

P.S. PROVE ME WRONG

P.P.S. What happened to Ernie Ormes £50.00 Tackle Voucher, I hope thats trade price value.

PPPS Nick --- Got the front to print all this. Luv Jerry.

Editors Note... Yes.



## Severn-Trent Water

Rivers and Regulation Division,  
Sapphire East,  
550 Streetsbrook Road,  
Solihull, B91 1QT.

Direct line: 021 722  
Main Exchange: 021 711 2324  
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My Reference

KB/PH/SMS/(0040T)

Your Reference

11 April 1989

Dear Sir

### Proposed Three Rod Byelaw

Thank you for your letter concerning the proposed change to Severn-Trent Fisheries Byelaw 10 (c) which would allow the use of three rods rather than two.

The Fisheries Advisory Committee at their meeting held on 21 February 1989 considered this and other proposed byelaw changes as part of the five-yearly review.

The Trent District Anglers' Consultative Association requested that the original byelaw 10 (c) be kept, that is not more than two rods per person should be allowed. The Severn Fisheries Consultative Council requested that the proposed new byelaw be modified to allow two rods not three, thus keeping the original two rod limit, but introducing the new restriction that rods must be within one metre of each other.

Representation protesting against the decision of the Consultative Associations and asking that the Fisheries Advisory Committee consider allowing a three rod limit was received from the National Association of Specialist Anglers, the Pike Anglers' Club, the Carp Anglers' Association, the Carp Society, the British Eel Anglers' Club, the Northern Specialist Anglers' Society, the Hull and District Anglers' Association, British Waterways Board and 141 interested individuals; 156 letters in total. In addition two letters were received from individuals protesting against the attitude of the Pike Anglers' Club and supporting the present two rod rule.

The Fisheries Advisory Committee was made fully aware of the strength of feeling in favour of introducing the new byelaw to permit the use of three rods. The ultimate decision, however, was that the existing byelaw 10 (c) should remain unchanged and it is anticipated that this view will be endorsed by the Severn-Trent Board.

As there is no longer a proposal to change the existing byelaws there cannot be any further consideration of the number of rods issue until the next review of byelaws in five years' time. Meanwhile, may I thank you for the interest you have shown.

Yours faithfully

*K. Bryan.*

K Bryan  
Regional Controller  
Fisheries, Conservation & Recreation

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19th April 1989

Dear Editor

This is for the next N.A.C. Bulletin (I hope).

Volume 26, No.1., was very much aimed at us, the non-writing members. It clearly advised us that we are shirkers. Well I don't agree for many reasons, some of which I'll comment on here.

Firstly, if one spends 1½ hours travelling to work in conditions worse than any animal is legally transported, then spend the next few hours scribbling or arguing or calculating the difference between A and B, then scribbling about it, followed by another 1½ hours travelling in appalling conditions, the inclination to indulge in more thinking and scribbling is just non-existent.

Secondly, many of us just are not scribes - by that I mean not able to write about things that interest others.

O.K., perhaps the above two points don't apply to some, if that is the case the choice of subject has to be made. Being NAC members the choice is not difficult - angling for eels. Much as I appreciate the joy of one's first-born (I have three of my own) the delivery is hardly the subject for the NAC magazine unless of course it is just to fill space. But I'm not writing to judge articles but to bring to light reasons why some cannot or do not contribute.

Having decided "eeling" is the subject, what can possibly interest others when the results of all trips to date might have been blanks. Perhaps in that case readers might be delighted to hear about the Kingfishers that repeatedly sat on my rods or how I retrieved the car batteries from the pool that some thoughtless !!! had dumped there after a night session. Or perhaps members would like to hear about how when about to cast, the line was discovered to be threaded through the tip ring twice. All very enthralling stuff for avid reading I'm sure.

Seriously though, non-writers cannot be made into writers anymore than a pig's ear can be made into a silk purse, no matter how much haranguing takes place

Further to the blanking experience, many people would be embarrassed, having blanked totally, to start opinionating in writing about baits and methods and times and places and

rightly so. Personally I have blanked totally, but although I have ideas about baits and methods etc. (some of which differ from those of our more successful writer members) I certainly cannot write about them until they have been proved or disproved to my satisfaction and that point might not be reached for quite awhile unless my current success rate improves out of all recognition.

Having got that off my chest, perhaps some goodly person will now advise me about something to write, then I can have a go at it. Maybe other non-writing members feel as I do - let's hear some of your feelings regarding writing articles.

I believe the Carp Society has about a 4,000 membership, of which about 40 are regular writers. If 1% is the going rate for writers in any membership, then perhaps the NAC is not too badly off.

Both John Sidley and Jerry Parkin write enjoyable articles for our bulletin as do several other members, but articles such as this which consist of moans do not make good reading. Yes, that may stimulate a reply or two but let's face it, who really wants to read about other people's gripes.

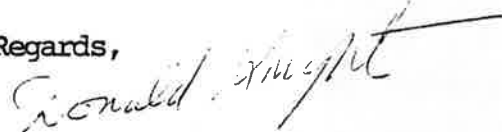
Thanks to all those who contribute to this magazine, but let's stop kidding ourselves that being a NAC member also makes a person a writer "cos it just aint so!"

With reference to Jerry Parkins suggestion about our methods, I believe he may have a point worth a lot more investigation. Winter eeling is another consideration after all eels do move from water to water even in winter. I can remember as a boy (before I got hooked on fishing) finding eels frozen in the grass between different ponds/lakes on several occasions. I certainly won't petition the Severn Trent Authority about three rods because I'm not convinced that any angler can handle three rods should that unlikely happening of three runs at once occur.

Nevertheless, congratulations Jerry (and Yvette) regarding your daughter, may she outfish the pair of you in due course.

Well, Mr Editor, I've tried my hand at writing although I think that it may be somewhat stilted. As Editor, your task must seem almost endless, but at least you have an end product that gives pleasure to many, including myself, one of that "lot of bloody old moaners" as your wife put it.

Regards,



Donald Knight.

(142)

P.S. I couldn't come to Daventry on the 9th because I had already arranged to be at the Carp Society Conference at Dunstable, but I hope to see you at the Whitsum weekend fish in.

D.K.



5lb



5lb +

Dave Taylor with 2 5+ eel's  
from a midlands stillwater

(MILES AWAY FROM THE MIDLAND'S)



## GET IN FIRST

The most vital part in the capture of eels has to be the choice of water. Although this sounds obvious, I am constantly amazed at the number of people that fish the same water year in, year out that only produces 1s @ 2s. If this is the sort of success that some people want then so be it. With my self, and most specialist anglers the aim is to beat "Personal Records" either numbers of large fish, or the one really big one.

I am convinced that the only way to achieve this aim is to fish new waters. By that I mean new waters you have found yourself. It is often worthwhile listening to Carp, Pike and Match Anglers as they do sometimes pick up large eels by accident. However a good eel angler will usually only pass on such information when he has completely finished with the water himself. Any lead about a good eel water is worth following as soon as possible because if you don't, somebody else will, and then they will reap the rewards.

When I lived in Peterborough I was very lucky, you only have to look at the OS Map to see the numerous blue blobs that indicate the rich gravel pits that are bound in the area, most of them virtually unfished. This only leads the task of selecting the correct ones to try. I have not really got any hard and fast rules about the selection, However my two main criteria are.

1. A water must be 10 years or older
2. I must be able to fish in privacy  
(if I am fishing illegally)

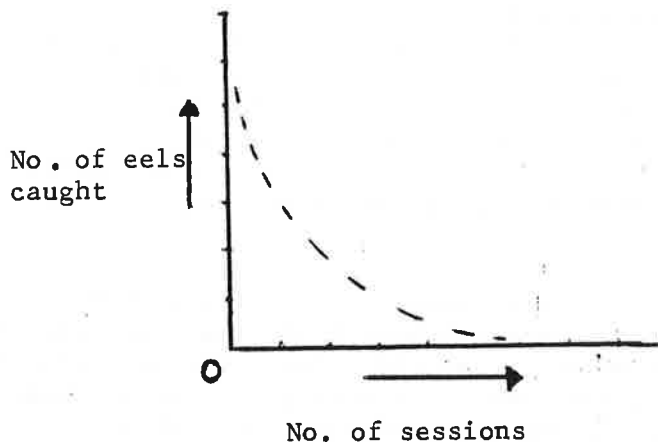
This brings me nicely onto the next point, due to the circumstances of eel angling there are not many waters that you can not fish. Turn up at dark, leave at first light, and if you are careful nobody knows you have been. 90% of eel waters Pete and I fish we have fished without permission.

I only give a potential eel water about three sessions to produce the goods. If there has been no success then I move on to the next venue on my list. Some of you may well be saying "That's all very well but there aren't many waters near me". Maybe not, But most of us have cars capable of covering at least 40 miles in an hour. I am going to have to travel for most of my sessions now as the Redditch area does not accommodate many waters. I have looked at these, some look good others don't. The most off putting aspect for me is when asking at the lakes if they contain eels the answer has often been "must be because John Sidley had been here" I think J.S. has fished every water I have visited so far. Well done John

I do not like fishing a water after a successful angler because the results will be poor (Particularly after J.S. has been there) because I am convinced that most eels get caught once and once only, with the exception of Nicks 4.02.

I do not know what happens to them only that I or nobody else seems to catch them again. Even with changes in methods and baits. This subject has been the topic of discussion between John Sidley, Phill Smith and myself on more than one occasion. Perhaps other members could air their views through the Bulletin.

The Fact that repeat captures are very rarely made means that results trail off fast. As can be seen on the graph below, A water starts with good results and gradually declines until there are few or even no eels caught.



The rate of decline is obviously dependent on 1. The size of the water. 2. The amount of angling pressure. 3. The number of eels in the water. A large water with a large head of eels and little angling pressure will of course last longer than a small water with a small number of eels and little pressure. An important point to remember is to try all the different areas on a lake. Some eels are definately territorial and do not stray far. Once the water has died it is time to move to pastures new.

There are good fish to be caught out there but it is the angler who is not lazy and is prepared to travel and search for new waters that will produce the results. I am convinced that the success in the capture of large eels is in the selection of the correct water. It is no good fishing a lake that produced "three fives", Two years ago. You are to late.

FIND YOUR OWN:

Happy Searching.

Dave Taylor.

NOTE FROM EDITOR, The 4.02 mentioned in the article was caught first at the inlet in the shallows of the lake on dead bait, and caught again a week later towards the outlet on the dam end on worms. Maybe it wised up to the bait and was also on its way out of the lake "Who Knows".

Just time to write a few words before I go round the local for a pint and a game of pool.

Looking back on the Spring meeting it's a shame that only nine out of a membership of forty bothered to turn up, Most I understand gave a reason for not being able to turn up, some more believable than others, apparently.

It was interesting when Brian Crawford read out some letters of application for membership, nearly everyone, if not everyone, asked about club meetings, where were these people? Now I know everyone is not a 100% dedicated eel angler, unlike myself, I sleep, eat(if you excuse the pun, I don't literally), and breathe eels, but surely those people who join the Anguilla Club must be interested to a certain degree in eels, or is it just to boast to their friends, "I'm in the N.A.C."? Come on lads, with a bit of concerted effort from everybody, lets get the N.A.C. back on the road with the respect it deserves from other specialist groups.

Now I may have offended a few people, that may not be a bad thing, but don't write to me to complain, write to the bulletin editor, who will print your replies. Even if only one person writes to object at least I have provoked a response, which is what I intended to do when I started to write this article.

Anyway, tight lines to everyone this year, and I hope John Sidley gets his double figure eel, he deserves it more than anyone for the effort he's put in. By the way John, remember after the Spring meeting last year, the article you wrote, when you offered to let my girlfriend, Sharon, come and play with your lobworm, on your water, while you put me in a swim a 100 yards away, well I am all for it, but unfortunately she's none to keen. Sorry John!

Nick Evans.

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# PUBLICATIONS

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## FISHING FOR BIG EELS

by **BRIAN CRAWFORD**

**3rd Edition £13.95**

The book contains over 60,000 words, a full colour front cover, over 50 black and white photographs, including many eels over 8lbs and the record 11lb 2oz eel. It also contains over 100 line drawings and information on the eel, the best baits, methods and rigs for eel fishing in every type of water.

There are sections on the eel, its history, life cycle, biology, identification, sexing, ageing, toxicity, growth rate, big eels, the British record eels, monster eels, big eels in New Zealand, Australia and Africa. The top 50 eels in the U.K. Eel locations in all types of water with examples of big eel captures from specific waters. Basic tackle and techniques are discussed. The full range of baits for eels including groundbaiting, prebaiting, additives, attractants, appetite stimulants etc. When to fish for big eels, time of day, season, month, effects of moon, water/air temperature, pressure, cloud etc. Bite detection, all types including a comprehensive survey of electronic alarms and their construction.

There are also sections on dealing with eels, hooking, playing, landing, netting, unhooking, weighing and photographing. The various eel angling specialists clubs are presented, National Anguilla Club, The British Eel Anglers Club and the National Association of Specialist Anglers.

Dave Holman and John Sidley contribute two excellent chapters demonstrating the just claims of them being the two most successful eel anglers ever.

The situation regarding eels and water authorities and eel conservation, eel/elver netting and the future of eel angling is discussed.

Finally there are four appendix concerned with bibliographies of recommended further reading and a list of 20 scientific papers relating to the eel referred to in the text.

This book is most suitable for the beginner and experienced eel angler alike, and is destined to become one of the most notable and certainly the most up-to-date book on eels ever produced.

NO TITLE

BY : KEVIN HUIISH

It was with great interest I read Jerry Parkins article concerning eel developments in Vol.26. No. 1. His comments ranged from crude tackle, size of fish, to baits and hair rigs and carp fishing.

First I will view tackle. The tackle I use myself are 12ft 1½ lb TC rods for worm with 9lb line and 12ft 2½lb TC for deadbaits with 11lb line-Stycast in fact no different from general Carp and Pike anglers. I know John Sidley has produced a rod specifically for eels. But to be honest the market is not there compared to the market for carp rods.

Next I will view baits and hair rigs. Due to carp fishing becoming more and more popular and more anglers fishing for the carp therefore extra pressure on the carp make the carp more wary. Baits and presentation of baits therefore became more important to keep catching the carp. The hair rig was developed through necessity. i.e. too many carp angler.

We eel anglers do not suffer from this problem, even if you combine the membership of the three eel groups, it will number around 250-300 serious eel anglers. The only development which has helped eel catches is the use of sub surface rigs but to be honest I have not much experience in using this type of rig. So if any member can provide details I would be most grateful. I was discussing eel tactics with ex N.A.C. members, Bob Jones and Pete Climo at one of my NASA meetings and they found the best method for big eels was a large single lobworm freelined in the margins, and they caught 3 sevens and an eight pounder from a trout lake. You can't get more simpler method/rig than that. After catching these eels they then went on to catch big carp at Redmire including a 38lb carp.

Now the bit that narked me, the size of Fish. I do not know how anyone can compare an eel of 2lb or 3lb with an 8lb carp in this day of modern angling. First lets take the 8lb carp. A carp will grow and put on weight quite quickly, about 2-3lb a year, this would make an 8lb carp about 4 years including a years growth as a fry. Eels take about 20 years to reach 2lb let alone 8lb.

Carp fisheries which have sprung up all over the Country where 8lb carp abound. Some are so heavily populated that they are netted and replaced with bigger carp. Angling weeklies are full of pictures of twenty's, Thirties, and forties. But with eels it is a different story, last season 1988/1989 I only saw 2 Photos of big eels. Our very own John idley with a 6lb.2oz and the big eight pounder from Broadlands in Hampshire. There were 3 carp over 30lb in one issue of the weeklies and that was a bad week.

My personal best is only 3lb 12oz at the moment and when I caught it I felt great satisfaction as there are not many waters that produce eels of this size in South Wales. The opposite to the carp. Perhaps I have got it wrong- perhaps a 2lb eel should be treated as scum of the water and only photographs taken of eels which weigh over 6lbs or more. I Don't think there would be many photos sent to me. I hope I'm wrong at least

someone can say so and write something for the Bulletin. No to catch big eels requalery you must put in the rod hours (back to carp slang again). Locate rich unpolluted waters which has never been eel fished. Such as a trout res, like the water where Pete Clims caught the sevens and Bob Jones his eight.

I sign off for now and wait for a reply. I intend to use boillies this year on a lake, where carp anglers try to avoid using them because of the eels. I let you know how effective they are. I leave you with this to think about. Has anyone tried the Russ Abbott rig?

Tightlines.

Kevin Huish. (Taff)

## "WIRE UP FOR EELS"

John Sidley.

I have already said that i feel the tackle we are using for eeling is not strong enough to subdue a monster snake. I would now like to turn to the need to use a wire trace, for this has been an evergreen argument among eel anglers for as long as I can remember, Some say yes and some say no and some dont know.

First let me begin. When I first started eeling on my local rivers, in those early days all I ever used was nylon and looking back I lost many eels by them biting off my hook length while playing them back to the bank. This was achived either by them cutting my main line as if by a pair of scissors ~~or by~~ them rasping through my main line, over the years of the above happening I must stress that most of the eels lost were caused by them rasping through my line like rubbing a file across it. Eels very rarely bite through your main line like a pike can, they have not got the dental ware or the sharp corners of the jaw as in a pike. I experimented with draylon backing material which is used on fly reels, yet once again eels were lost, I can even remember Jim Gibbinson fishing on the Grand Union Cana! and loseing a monster eel while using draylon.

Some eel angler scorn the use of a wire trace even when using fish baits be they live, dead, in sections of strips, these anglers are very foolish indeed for the risk of an unexpected pike ~~excepting~~ their offering is very high. I am sure these very same anglers would not go in persuit of pike without using a wire trace. The amou of pike big and small I have taken at night while eeling sometimes out fishes my winter stints, a 23lb 03oz pike taken from Westwood Park one night eeling, took a roach tail, If I had been using anything else but wire I could have kissed that fish goodbye but more important I would have left a large hook in that fish, a hook capable of sealing the pike's throat.

Another reason some eel anglers look down on the use of wire is their theory that they encounter more drop runs, I agree I have had this happen to me more times than I care to remember, yet I feel it is not the fault of using a wire trace but the culpret being small eels or other course fish that can not get your offering into their mouth, Thus running a few yards and dropping it. I fell also that if the culpret was a big eel that what might happen is that the eel has hold of the tail of your lob and it has broken away from the main bunch, we often see when retreiving our baits that an eel has stripped our hooks of part of the bait. The pressure an eel can give when grasping your bait in its jaws is very powerful indeed and capable of biting a peice of fish from your hook. The end result being you have a dropped ran with bait on the hook goving the impression that the eel has dropped your bait.

I have fished many different types of water using both nylon and wire, day and night, clear water and dirty water and on many occasions had more runs to my rod with a wire trace and landed more eels with that wire trace than the other rod on nylon.

For example on a fishing trip to Westwood Park with the Angling Times who at the time were getting pictures of Gerry and myself for a feature on eeling I was writing for them, Gerry & I fished one rod on wire and one rod on nylon all we wanted was a few eels for the camera. During that stint Gerry and I took two eels each, the best to Gerry at 4lb 11oz all those eels fell to the rod being used with a wire trace. Our nylon end rigs never produced a twitch let alone a run.

Now most of you will know by now there are two different types of eels that swim in our water ways, both are quilla, quilla their features being different in their head shape, on most waters the angler will find 95% of one eel and 5% of the other, i.e. big head or small head. The only venues I have found with 50% of each are in the rivers. Some Angler have said to me why fish a wire trace on venues where you will only find 95% of the small headed eels, thus lowering the risk of them rasping your hook length through, fair comment lads but what about that other 5%, what happens if one of those old gals comes along, or as I have said greedy old esox.

If you are still in any doubt that a trace is needed in your eeling then take heed of the angler who confronted me at Westwood Park, In a very loud voice he told me plus all the other anglers who were present that night, that he had never used a wire trace in all the years that he had been eeling, and he had seen no need to use one banking stakes to 6lb on nylon hook lengths. That statement I know to be true for I weighed his 6lb eel from Westwood myself. I tried to explain my reasons to him but they were all laughed at. To cut a long story short as dawn broke over Westwood the angler giving me an ear full hit is only run of the night, as his rod bent over I with all the other lads present walked down to watch the action, after a very good fight the eel surfaced some 20 yards from the bank, after seeing the eel for the first time we all agreed she was a good four, all we could hear was the sound of his nylon rasping on the eel's teeth. Seconds Later the powerful bend in his rod had disappeared and his main line went slack. I shall always remember the look of disbelief on his face all I said was you don't need wire for eels do ya.

Over the year I have tried many types of wire, the best to date being 15lb PDQ I wire I use for all my pike fishing as well, all in all the PDQ takes some beating. So when I am asked if I use a wire trace my answer is always yes but of course the choice is always still yours.

I hope I have given a fair comment on both sides of this argument.

J.S.



# GENESIS(HOW IT ALL STARTED)BY TONY GILBERT.

It must be nearly seven years ago now when I first thought about eel fishing seriously. I had just started work at the Post Office as an apprentice electrical engineer, when I met Dave Taylor who was also starting work there. After a few weeks we realised we both shared the same interests and hobbies, the main one being fishing, but all he seemed to go on about were these slimy horrible eels.

After a while I asked him how he did it (eel fishing that is) and he enlightened on the finer points of eel fishing. It didn't sound too difficult to me just a bunch of worms or piece of fish on a size 2 or 4 hook, wire trace, 3oz bomb, 10lb line and 24lb T.C. rods. I already had the tackle for carp and pike fishing so there was no problem there but a water I could night fish was a different matter, all my local club waters were strictly day fishing only. So I set off for a private which I was under the impression was open for night fishing but after arriving there for a look around I discovered was, to my horror, not.

Anyway I still thought I would give it a go, so I dug up as many worms as I could find in my parents garden and caught a few roach for dead baits and sorted my tackle out for the following days fishing trip.

At half past three the following morning I crawled out of bed, much to the disgust of my dad who thought the house was being burgled, filled my flask, made some sandwiches, loaded up my dad's car and set off to catch myself an eel.

Quarter past four in the morning I arrived at Culverthorpe Lakes, still pitch black and foggy. I set up my tackle on the island swim on the larger of the two lakes. Baited my hooks one with worms and the other with a roach head, cast them both into the middle of the lake, sat back in my picnic chair, poured myself a cup of coffee and waited in anticipation.

By half past eight I began to think it was true that eels only feed at night. But what's this an opticon started to sound. I leaped out of my chair grabbed the rod baited with fish, wound down into the fish and struck. I'm in I thought my first eel but no as I slipped the net under it I was heart broken a f-----g pike about 6lbs. I rebaited with a roach tail and cast out, sat back and watched the Estate Managers dog swim across the lake for no apparent reason.

Time gradually dragged on and I got more and more dejected and fed up of people asking if I was fishing for carp and having to say "no eels" and then getting funny looks. At about two o'clock the bailiff "Walter" came round to collect my money. We chatted for about half an hour and he told me the usual stories of eels as thick as your neck and as long as your arm and of course I believed every one of them. Soon he continued on his way and I went back to my chair and radio.

Then just as I was beginning to feel suicidal an opticon screamed off, I looked and it was the fish rod not another pike I thought to myself. Anyway I jumped up, wound down and struck. Everything went solid and the rod just thumped up and down. I slowly pumped the fish in and it just kept to the bottom and kept thumping away. Soon it came to the surface and I tried to slip the net under it, and much to my embarrassment as I now had gained an audience of half a dozen people, it would not go in because the net was too small. On the third attempt it was netted. I was over the moon my first eel lay in the bottom of the net. It was carefully unhooked and weighed 4lb 6oz including the sling so after taking off the sling it was 4lb 2oz. After holding it up to show the onlookers it was returned safely to the water and that was it I was

**HOOKEED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Thoughts from Per-Ola Johannesson

Hello dear members of the distinguished National Anguilla Club.

I will throw myself head first into the discussion about an eels age. There are some people that are of the opinion that eels grow very, very slowly and must be really old to be big. This is far from true, ( a big eel can of course be old and even really old as for example Johns monster). Because the growing rate for eels here in Sweden is somewhere between 3- cm per year. The most usual growing rate is 5cm per year, Afigure that eel scientist are convinced is the true one. As you know the climate in England is far more favorable for fish growth than it is in Sweden, So there is no reason to believe that the English eels would grow any slower.

If you take an eel of approximatley 1metre where it would be a 4-5 lb'er so it would be around 20 years old. To be 120CM it could be a new Swedish record (over 8½lbs), it would only need four more years. Dont misunderstand me on another topic, I do not think that big eels should be put on the bank to stay there. On that subject I totally agree with you who spearhead the campaign. "Put eels back". I think you do a tremendous job and we should need these thoughts a bit more over here to. The usual opinion in Sweden is that because eels go to the Sargasso SEa to sporn, it does not matter if you take all of them out and put them on land. Atotally idiotic thought because where would we get the new ones from, with Santa?.

In most waters we dont get any new eels unless they are transported to the lake by humans, An action that is close to forbidden because the water owners are convinced that eels eat all their lovely crayfish, which they can fish out and sell for big money (Usually tax free), during August and September.

I myself think that its a bit ridiculous to think that a fish with such a small mouth as an eel has could do any damage to a lakes crayfish population at all. When i talked to some Swedish eel scientists they were totally conviced that eels eat crayfish and hardley anything else, I know of course that it happens that an eel will eat a crayfish but I dont think it is often. In my opinion there are some fishes (and birds and mammals to) for example Burbot, perch and pike who eats a lot more crayfish than eels do. It would be very interesting to hear about eel/crayfish, crayfishers bait and if you have found eels with crayfish in their stomachs and so on. If you have found eels with crayfish in their stomachs, I am also interested in what else you may have found.

Well I think it is enough about my two favorite topics when it comes to eels. Looking forward to you opinions about eels/crayfish, I hope you will have a lot to come. I hope you will get exiting nights the fishing year to come.

Per-Ola Johannesson..... from a cold Sweden.

## THE CLUB TRIP

I arrived at the pool on the Friday afternoon to be greeted by Kevin Huish the trip organiser (yes they sometimes do attend.) He told me that I was the first of all the members to arrive. I enquired as to how many members were going to attend and he said that only 4 people had phoned him. Still, not letting this bother us too much we took a walk around the water and I selected my swim.

The water was a picture, set amongst scenery of the beautiful Wye Valley it was certainly going to be a pleasure to fish, especially with such wonderful weather. I placed my tackle on my selected piece of bank and meandered back to Kevin watching the Carp to 20lb that were crashing & clopping on the surface.

Kevin, giving me the promised cup of tea, told me a bit about the lakes history. Apparently it was owned by a local farmer who allows fishing all through the season and therefore is very popular at this time of year, Kevin was lucky and was able to book the whole water for the N.A.C.

At about 9.00 Nick Rose arrived and he set up his tackle in a swim opposite mine and the three of us set down to a nights fishing. There was also three other Carp anglers on the lake, due to the low turn out of eel anglers he said that they were quite welcome to fish. The night was quite slow with Kevin & Myself taking a small eel apiece and Nick showing us how good he was by blanking. At dawn I pulled my rods in and settled down for a few hours sleep.

I was woken at 10.00 by Kevin shouting that he had the kettle on, Nick & I made our way to Kevs biv where we sat for a few hours drinking tea and watching Kevin eat his breakfast. Kevin is one of these anglers who I envy. His meals were like you would get in a good cafe, large cooked brekkies, three course dinners, numerous cups of tea. All I had was 5 pies and some chum mixer. The morning passed quickly with discussion about the angling scene in general and the state of the N.A.C. It was then on to look at Llangorse lake to find our swims for the night.

Llangorse is awe inspiring, being a massive lake with the impressive Brecon Beacons rising 3,000 ft behind it, considering the size of the lake it is surprising to see that there is only two roads for access. We elected to look at the South side by the Llangasty Church. Where the road joins the lake there is a large grass peninsular which would easily accommodate all of us so decided that we had seen enough and made our way to the local pub.

Over some pints & pies we formed our plans for the evening. Nick and I would go on to Llangorse but Kevin decided to stay and wait for the other members that were bound to come. I told him he was being an optimist and that the club trip would probably only consist of the three of us, but he decided to forgo Llangorse.

At 3.30 we went back to Llswen to while away the scorching hot afternoon. In our absence a Match Angler had arrived and was fishing about three pegs from mine. I sat behind him astonished when he caught two 12oz Roach and lost one that must have been approaching 2lb in about 10 mins. He said that he already had about 5lb in his net made up of 8 fish. The more he talked the more amazed I was, his best catch was in a match when he had just under 50lb all Roach catch with an average weight of about a pound and two fish

breaking the 2lb barrier. He could see I was taking an interest and said "Listen Boyo if you want a go I'll lend you the tackle". Within ten mins I was in my swim with my borrowed tackle including the nicest Carbon Rod I have ever used. (Amazingly freindly these Welsh). At 6.00 I gave up totally fishless and returned my tackle. I did not feel to bad as I did not really have enough bait and he was a div ~~ONE ANGLER~~

It was then I had to take back what I had said earlier when Chris Brown from ~~Wednesday~~ arrived. He came on his bike and therefore decided he could only spend one night due to his lack of load carrying ability, he decided to spend the night at Llswen with Kevin.

Nick & Myself made our way to Llangorse and set up for the night. Once again I was wrong as another member Andy Weston, and his mate Tim Palmer (None Memeber) turned up from Sussex. They tried to find us the night before but arrived late and could not find the water. We were all set up by about 9.00pm and awaiting the action. Action it certainly was as Nick had the first run almost as soon as he had cast out on worm. "He mist it". Then I had one, then another, then another..... I Said to Nick these must be bream or roach, wrong again. My next run I caught a bootlace. Andy informed me that he had had one aswell. As it got darker the runs got more confident and more eels were caught all of them less than 1lb. We all soon switched our baits to deadbait. And I used eel section (This is a bait I often use, and see no harmin using the odd bootlace as bait. This is no different to using any other fish and seems to sort out the bigger eels on a mall eel infested lake).

This the majority of the runs and only one more eel was caught.

This was about 1½lb caught by Nick which had a massive head.

At dawn we left Andy & Tim and went back to Llyswn to report our night to Kev and to find out how he had done. Unfortunalty Kev & Chris had blanked (Chris caught a 10lb common on a roach tail). We had one final cup of tea and then we all left to make our way home.

All in all the trip was very good despite the lack of decent eels. It is just a shame that only five members bothered to turn up. I know some of you had good reasons but to not even ring Kevin and let him know is plain ignorant. It takes a lot of effort to arrange a club trip and is very disheartening when the turnout is low. I would like especially to thank Chris for comming down on his bike, Andy & Tim in travelling for five hours to join us, These members made the effort what about the rest of You.

Dave (Angry) Taylor.

P.S. What happend to the Vipertech that I believe was donated to the Club for field testing.  
And the £50.00 Tackle Voucher for best article.

Brad Little. from the Rhine

Dear Nick,

Just a brief letter to enclose my cheque for N.A.C. membership 1988/1989.

You may find it strange for me to write to you and not the treasurer. However only having been a member for one year and been stuck out here in the "father land". I have never received an updated list of members and committee. (Ed. Note their is one enclosed in this Bulletin).

I note with interest that Per-Ola Johannessson had a lengthy telephone conversation with you. Perhaps this is the answer to my miserable literary/ efforts. I have started (and abandoned) two articles on eel-ing trips whic took place last year, although eels were caught on both trips there was nothing really exeptional. On re-reading what I had written it just seemed to boring and mundane compared to the articles by J.S. and Company.

I hav e had several sessions (Days only) this year but again the only features were a large trout which obviously had been brought up on a diet of worms as apposed commercially fed. It was 1k.300 which was the result of heavy pre baiting (with liver) and took a fancy to a sKimmer bream head fished on size 2. This was the first fish of the day an occured about 10 mins after the first cast 5.15 am.

The first week in May is a rest week for the establishment where I am employed, and as "Per indoors" is planning to go away for five days, I intend to put in a stint just outside of Roesmorol, if the results are favorable I promise you an article.

Tightlines

Brad.

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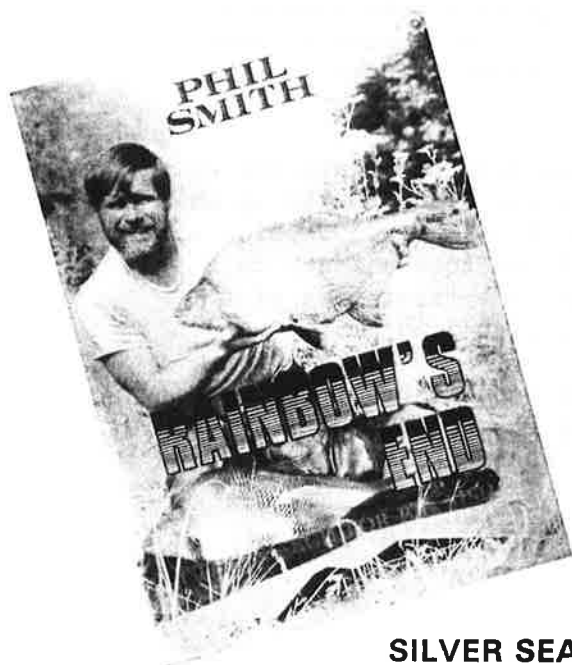


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(Available soon - "MY WAY WITH CHUB" by Tony Miles).

## A DIFFERENT IDEA ON BAIT BY TONY GILBERT

As most of you must realise the majority of eel anglers use one of two baits i.e. worms or fish, but why not this season try being a little more adventurous and maybe try the idea in this article. The traditional baits seem to work alright under normal circumstances but with the exception of Nick Rose how many of you have caught the same eel on more than one occasion, not many I'm sure, I certainly haven't.

Anyhow I'm here to talk about bait and not discuss multiple captures of fish. I would like to bring to your attention an idea I first heard about a few years ago now and have used with some limited success. This method consists of bloodworms being used in sausage skins, this may sound odd to you, but bloodworms are one of the natural foods of most fish. In order to try this you will need to obtain a reasonable quantity of bloodworms by either buying them from a tackle shop or collecting your own from the bottom of ponds. These must then be washed in clean water to remove any peat or mud, this can be done by placing them in a sieve and rinsing them under the tap. Then after that dry them off on a piece of towel to remove excess moisture. Now comes the good bit place the dried bloodworms in the liquidiser and give them a couple zaps just to break them up.

You will also need to obtain some natural sausage skins. They must be the natural type as these are made from cows intestines and allow the flavour of the bloodworms to escape, if synthetic ones are used it would be like putting the worms in a plastic bag. The sausage skins can be purchased from your local butcher at a nominal fee. Now all we have to do is to put the worms into the sausages, this is done by cutting off a short length of skin about three inches or so. Tying one end up with cotton in order to form a bag and tip a small quantity of worms into the bag twist the other end up and bind again with cotton. Trim off any excess and this should leave you with a nice firm neat bag of worms. A small amount of air can be left in the bag in order to make it bouyant.

The bag can then be tied onto the hook by a short piece of line thus forming a hair rig. Of course any bait can be substituted such as daphnia, fresh water shrimps, tubifex worms and any thing else you care to try. This method has an advantage over suspending baits in gelatine in that it does not dissolve and can therefore be left on the hook for a greater length of time.

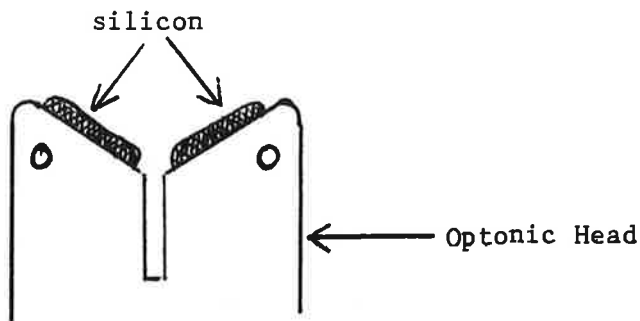
As I mentioned before this idea has been tested me and a couple of my friends and has been responsible for the capture of quite a few eels and also some reasonable specimens of other species of fish. I intend to employ this method this year on a spare rod in order to give it a better trial. If any of you try this method I would appreciate it if you would let me know how you got on good or bad. Thank-you.

Tony Gilbert

## BULLSHIT FOR THE BULLETIN

I thought it would be an idea to pass on some of the tips that I have picked up during my angling career. I think everybody has some small peice of information that could be of value to others, so please pass it on through the pages of the Bulletin. Its a lot easier than writing an article.

1. To stop my rods slipping on the optonics I put a strip of silicaon sealant along the tops of th V.

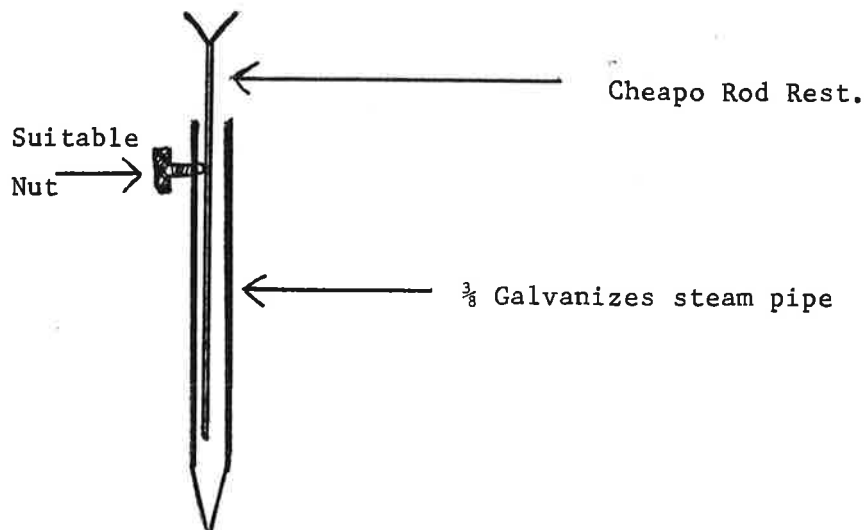


Dave Taylor.

2. Two Terry clips bolted back to back allow a torch to be slipped to a broolly pole for easy access or a landing net handle facillitating in landing eels on your own at night. Dave Taylor.

3. Galvanized steam pipe  $\frac{1}{8}$  ths is perfect for making good quality bank sticks. Cut and hammer the ends to make a point for the tops are used a cheap 50p rod rest these are slid inside and a hole is tapped in the steam pipe for an appropriate bolt used for the thumb screw.

Dave Taylor.





4. If you are like me and play your fish on backwind then it would be beneficial to take out the ratchett if possible. I have learned from bitter experience that an anti backwind can easily be knocked on causing the loss of a fish.

Dave Taylor.

Heres on I picked up from Jerry Parkin. Put a weak elastic band around the front end of the landing net handle and tuck your back end of net into it. The weight of the fish will pull it out when you net it ( that is if it is more than a few ounces) and you dont get the net tangled up in the bank side vegetation while you are manouvering it to net the eel.

