

The National Anguilla Club

BULLETIN

NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB BULLETIN

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David P. Walker

EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Welcome to 1987 folks, I know it's been a long time coming but volume 24 is finally under way and a pretty good ship she is. A rather varied edition and from several contributors, still a few omissions but we seem to be getting there.

I was particularly disappointed with the response to my Guess the Weight feature in the last edition, but I will press on regardless and the next edition will include another photo competition with all entries to be sent to Bob to make him feel more at home and to stop some of our membership ignoring our General Secretary.

It was with great joy that I read through Phill Smith's article prior to typing it. Very rarely do we get so much common sense and experience in one piece, it certainly made me think again about what I wrote in the December edition and realise that I was wrong. Now if you are sitting there and saying to yourself 'I knew Walker was wrong' why the bloody hell didn't you write in and say so. That's what the Bulletin is here for remember. Thank you Phill for your article it was a breath of fresh air.

The excellent article by Dave Taylor is one of three from him and the others will follow in the next editions. Thanks for the excellent drawings Dave they are very good indeed and set the piece off brilliantly.

I was in two minds whether to publish John's eel list but decided that it does go to show what can be achieved if you put your mind to it on the right water.

John and I's session reporting feature is far from complete but I think you can see what we are getting at. This type of reporting would make life much easier for Bob, who I think is doing the scheme this year. The formation of the 'tick sheet' for the recording of all the general information is simple enough and we felt that it was not necessary to go into that in our article. I hope we have a lively discussion about this point at the SGM as both John and I feel that it is vitally important that we start to gather data on the bigger eels exclusively.

What can I say about the last article in this edition. Bastards would be one word that springs to mind, fantastic would be another. Thanks a bundle lads has to be the final word on a great first effort at writing for any publication. If any of you are scared of writing for the Bulletin then read this little piece and then put to paper.

Personal news now. As you may have read in the new style Newsletter, I have been selected to play darts for Hertfordshire and at the time of writing have played three games for the county B team, I am even playing on Saturday 11th the day before the SGM. Other news concerns the fact that I have been banned from driving for one year due to a drink driving offence on the 1st Feb 87. So for this season I am hoping to scrounge lifts every time I want to go fishing, this is already in hand and a mate who doesn't even go eel fishing is getting the treatment to persuade him to join a group of waters that I want to fish. Poor sod is really a pike angler and I don't think he knows what he will be letting himself in for he takes me in the summer. HO HO HO!!!!!!

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Dear members, our 25th year is upon us at last. It is imperative that we all keep this fact in the forefront of our thoughts all year. The past few years have not been memorable ones, the 1960's and 1970's were obviously the prime years of the National Anguilla Club, based on input from members. Not only was there very active competition as to who could put in the greatest effort for eels, or catch the greatest number of eels over 2lb., but members tried as hard as they could to make other contributions to keep the Club's status as 'THE' club for eel anglers. Our Bulletins were something to look forward to with great expectation and no statement could be made without it causing several follow up letters, several issues being carried forward through many editions of the Bulletin. Where is this questioning spirit now?

You cannot all be mentally switched off or totally committed to life outside the Club. To be a member of the National Anguilla Club, you must have a keen interest in eels and in fishing for them. We cannot revel in past glories if we are to continue for another 25 years.

John Sidley has had a magnificent year. He has put in more effort and caught more specimen eels than the rest of us put together. He would be the first to admit that he has a lot going for him in being able to fish 3 or 4 long sessions per week on one of the most prolific eel waters in our history. However, looking at the potential within our ranks, the proportional effort should be there, if not the success. Despite all my other very many commitments I still try very hard to put in at least one all night session for eels per week from April to the end of September. Since 1970, I have never missed a Club meeting and have only missed about one Whit trip. In 1979 at Butlers (LB1) I virtually spent the whole of the Whit Trip ill in my biv. But at least I was there. That also was the first Club Trip for Bob, and the first experience of the Club for Dave Taylor and Pete Stickland who were both about 14 at the time.

I realise that all the effort in the world will not produce the big eels if you are not on the right water, and that not everyone can fish a water with the potential of John's. However, having said that, it still has to produce an eel over 7lb. (it will this year I'm sure) In my book I have a list of over 50 eels over 7lb from a whole variety of waters. It is no good spending session after session on a water if you know deep inside it does not have the potential. You only have to look at the effort put in by Phil Smith and his fellow dedicated anglers. They put in a lot of effort in the first place to locate a water with the potential and then put in a lot more effort in fishing for the species they require. I will be publishing books by Phil Smith and Tony Miles this year and reading them as they have been prepared has made me realise just how much hard work they put in for their success. It will be impossible for anyone to read their books

and not have a change to their attitude and understanding with respect to serious specimen fishing, whatever species you desire.

At this moment in time, I cannot wait to get to grips again with our old friend *Anguilla anguilla*, however, today (January 15th) we are in the grip of severe ice and snow and I've been given a few extra days off school as a result. I cannot fish because of the conditions but am able to catch up on jobs I would otherwise have had to put to one side. I would hope that all of you have taken a similar opportunity to write something for the Bulletin so that our Editor has a good stock of material for the Bulletin to work on. I hope that you are also making serious plans for your eel fishing campaign for our 25th year. Checking out waters and tackle, planning the methods and techniques you will be using. I can recommend you test out versions of the swimfeeder rigs I have suggested and you do articles of versions you have used or would consider worth trying.

Another thought for our 25th year would be for all members to try to acquire at least one new member for the Club. Now that the session reporting is defunct, and was the main obstacle to expansion, there is no reason why this year our membership should not expand 2 or 3 times. I will be giving a talk on eels to the Derbyshire Region of NASA in February and will be doing my best to sell the NAC. If Dave Walker does not want to do a talk on eels at the Conference at Nottingham, I would offer my services but either of us could still use the opportunity to sell the NAC. Dave has already done his bit with his two new members last year but this year he could try for 4. Dave Taylor and Pete have the opportunity to obtain at least one or two more, and I'm sure other members can do the same.

I feel deep inside that the Club is heading for a totally new era and I want to do my best to be part of it. A massive injection of new and enthusiastic blood could be our best tonic. We have the tradition, the expertise, the administrative organisation, the dedication to *Anguilla anguilla* to boldly go forward via growth of membership, effort and success with eels, to once more make the National *Anguilla* Club, a Club for which membership is something to be proud of.

Let's make 1987, our 25th Anniversary Year, a Year to remember.

Best wishes and the best of luck with your eel fishing.

Brian Crawford
President

CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

I've almost forgotten what the summer is like. Snow is settling fast outside, as much as I've seen for several years, and for two days the temperature has not got above freezing and the idea of venturing outside requires careful consideration and a lot of warm clothing!

I honestly thought after the last two winters that we might have had a milder one this time around, that is not to be, but maybe the severe cold will be shortlived. Obviously things have been a little quiet on the Club front in recent months, something that could perhaps have been avoided, though not easily. Bob has recently moved house so he has had his hands full with not the smoothest of moves at all. Not only that but someone decided to "write-off" Bob's car whilst it was parked at the side of the road.

Dave soldiers on manfully with the Bulletin but he can only do what the supply of material allows him to, same old story! Despite the rampant apathy prevalent at the moment, the last Bulletin contained the usual mixture of subject matter and many thanks to the various contributors for their efforts. There are several points I would like to pick up on, not least of which is the list of names who hadn't paid subs. Nearly three quarters of last years membership, a sign of the times I wonder?

The information on the eel trapping should strike a chill into all of you. Read it and it all sounds so easy, money for old rope. All you need is the nets, a map and a couple of licences and off you go. According to the author nowhere is sacred, and be advised, if people think there is a chance to make some easy money by catching some eels then they will not waste time asking for permission. Not only that, some of the gear advertised is reckoned to be good for other fish as well, and make no mistake, there is a ready market for such fish. All this on top of the already nomadic population of fish (notably carp and pike) which go walkabout from time to time.

Just be on your guard!!!

I read John Sidleys letter with interest. I have to agree largely with his comments about the reporting scheme and the lack of effort generally within the Club.

I'm sure we are all aware of the problems and we know that there are ways of easing some of these, but until such time as the majority of members are firing on all cylinders there will not be a dramatic change. Nor will we stop people sniffing at the Club for whatever reasons they may have. We might be able to offset some "flack" by a greater effort all round, but we will not stop it all together. Rightly or wrongly I choose to ignore any derisory comments at the moment. What are your views?

Dave informs me that this Bulletin should include a proposed alternative reporting scheme which I look forward to reading about. Maybe the rest of you members out there will be able to provide something as well??????

TERRY JEFFERSON

CHAIRMAN

COMMENTS

by PHILL SMITH

I decided that the best way to write something for the Bulletin was to go through it and answer the points as they came, so here we go!

Yes I did have a good Christmas, Pike to 15½lb, zander to 8¼lb, Christmas cake to ½ a stone, at least that's what I put on over the hols.

Whilst agreeing that the title of our group includes "specialists" I must disagree, and suggest perhaps that our only member who truly fits this description given in the mag of a totally dedicated eel angler would be John Sidley. The rest of our members vary from thirty or so visits in a season down to my current status of making no visits for eels last year.

During the period of my own maximum effort for eels I would have fished comparable times to John, but now I've moved on to other species, but I keep my interest in the eel and could possibly start a campaign for them at any time.

It is interesting, that perhaps 15 years ago I was a member of the Chub Study Group. At that time I was very active in chub fishing, also quite successful, with numerous 4lb plus fish being caught each year. The group was comparable with our group now - both in numbers and the range of activity of members.

As a young and enthusiastic member at that time I was all for dismissing any member who didn't report at least twenty 3lb plus chub in our reporting scheme, after all on a good day it was not unknown for me to catch ten or more of these fish, so to ask the same, roughly, from another member in a season was reasonable, wasn't it?

Fortunately, older and wiser heads prevailed, and we continued on our way, my aims and ambitions altered and I ceased to have an active interest in the group, but those people I would have dismissed carried on, giving a basis for the people who followed who did fish for, and catch, chub.

The name of our group has been great in the past and hopefully will be again. I have I feel, matured to a point where I let others fish at their own level for their choice of species or mix of species. Even for the most dedicated specialist there are highs and lows of both success and activity.

The question was raised - Do we need our Club Officers? - possibly not today but maybe tomorrow!

The next question struck home - no, I hadn't paid my subs, but that's easily corrected. Rules and constitution along with members are the club. Otherwise we are just a group of mates.

In closing this section let me extend a welcome to Eric Bushell, Tom Riley and John Pearce, may they forefill the promise of the Editorial, But as important, let me thank members, both current and past that allowed Eric, Tom and John the chance to join the NAC and perhaps it will be their actions and results that lead to a resurgence of the club.

John Sidley's letter reminds me of myself all these years ago in the Chub Study Group and I think he is just as wrong as I was.

I have a great deal of time for John as I suggested in the forward I did for his book, he represents the extreme of dedication in the pursuit of eels, but not all anglers can or even deserve to attain that level of success. John talks of the NAC becoming a joke - to who? 99% of the angling world don't know of any eel specialist group, even within the main specialist groups there is a sorry lack of exchange of thoughts. John mentions the NAC being the cream all those years ago, well I found different! As a comparative novice eel angler, I attended the first British Angling Conference at Chelsea. In the evening there were rooms set aside for the various specialist groups and in search of knowledge I sought out the NAC. All my heroes were there, anglers who had caught 6,7, and even 8lb plus eels, while I still dreamt of 4lb'ers or perhaps that magical five. The anglers were good, of that there was no doubt but I found them bogged down in their own paperwork :-

Question.- Which bait works best worm or fish?

Answer. → Well, our three million reports have not been analysed properly yet.

Question.- Is it better to fish deep water at times of bright moon?

Answer. - Weeeeall we're not sure until the reports get checked.

Question after question was asked with little or no positive feed back, individuals there could have given us good leads but paperwork and group policy took over common sense, and at the same time it stopped me and my companions joining the NAC at that time.

Coming back to John's comment on a joke, just make sure you get what YOU want out of the NAC whilst trying to contribute something in return, no matter how little, let the jokers carry on, it seems to be a national disease at the moment.

Going on to Brian's piece, I think an important point to note is the fact that the flavours used can be totally alien to what one would expect. We all think of ACE worm extract, meaty flavours or fishy flavours, but the results suggest that success can be obtained with spice, fruit or even odd flavours like concentrated bullshit. Be open in your thinking, the only limits are those you put there yourself.

On to the eel netting section.

This will perhaps bring home that eel netting is a big money earner. The results of this knowledge can do one of two things:-

- (1). Make sure you keep your venues a closed shop to yourself and a few trusted mates. Eel netting is VERY efficient at removing your sport, one good night, end of eel idnary fishery.
- (2). The other possibility is you will decide to resign from the NAC and take up eel netting for a living, you'll get your hoped for 5lb plus fish both quicker and easier.
- (2a). I like the way it mentions that other fish can be caught in these nets - like 4" to 6" roach, rudd and tench, all things that pike like!!

I read with interest the piece in chapter five, reference keeping eels. It gives the warning about keeping eels over thick mud which gives off methane gas. The 6½lb eel mentioned in my recent article on Belvide, died. At the time this was put down to stress but it was kept at the back of the island in five feet of water. With the flush beds extending both ways from the island, this resulted in a stagnant watershed with a thick mud base, result-dead eel-be warned.

Leading from this should we fish in an area that fits this description in warm weather? Going on to chapter ten, ref. the moon, do you all go out on a new moon? Bear in mind these are the professionals, so we must take note of what they say.

Last but not least we come to John's piece on water temperature.

I think he's fishing the month of an active volcano, very dangerous this and I can only suggest that he tells me where it is so that I can report it, then keep well away from there until the danger passes - say two seasons, I'll let him know when it's safe to return!

Will THE N.A.C. BE ALIVE IN 1988?

by John Sidley

Well it won't be long before those snakes, (sorry Ernie) Those eels will be moving out of their winter slumbers, my pike season went well with 76 doubles including seven over 20lb with a best at 24:01, not the numbers game, just personal targets.

I read with great interest Bob's recent Newsletter, as I was not at the last AGM I was aware about writing to Bob. My monthly catch returns I sent to Terry along with the odd letters to Brian and Dave. Bob says "what will the new season bring the Club" I know what it will bring me, eels with hopefully a few big-uns thrown in. Why, because I will be putting the effort into catching what I love so much, because I catch eels because I'm an eel angler, not despite it! I spend my time on the waters that matter where I'm most likely to score and even if I didn't fish every day of the week I would still spend every spare moment at the waterside where it mattered. This I did in fact do when I was working full time! I do not understand why other members of our Club do not do the same, if you are not prepared to do this then could you please tell me why you are in The National Anguilla Club?

Over the past two seasons there has been much writing in the Bulletin by members such as Dave Walker, Brian Crawford, Arthur Sutton and unfortunately me, yet there has been little or no feedback from other members of the Club. WHY???

There was more than enough for all of us to get our teeth into over the last two seasons, yet I had to suffer articles on Chub fishing and what gear to take fishing with me, and to rub salt into the wounds I was treated to a very long piece on eel netting. (EDS COMMENT. The eel netting piece was good stuff John and although it may have seemed boring and pointless in OUR Bulletin it was VERY important and I certainly learnt from it. It also very strongly reinforces one of your favourite sayings, that

you don't tell any-one where you are catching good eels. To dismiss the article as rubbing salt into the wound I think is very short sighted and perhaps you ought to think again on this one old mate. DPW.) Well lads if I want to read about big chub I will join the Chub Study Group and I think I'm old enough to know what fishing gear to take with me (NO)ONE is too old to learn John!!DPW) and we all know or at least should know how much damage the eel trapper and his nets can do to waters, if I wanted to start up as a trapper then the article would be of great help but it was as much help to me in catching eels as reading a book on tench to learn about pike fishing!

As bob says, something has to happen in the Club if it is to remain alive and kicking, as at present we are not pulling our weight in the big fish world and we are getting laughed at especially along the lines of being an Anguilla Club member means only going eel fishing five or six times a year and proving that you don't catch to get in. I wonder what the old members of the 60's would have thought of the Club today? So what are we ALL going to do to put the Club back on it's feet and back on the top of the specialist big fish world, where it rightly belongs. Lets live up to our EEL SPECIALISTS image and fill the Bulletin up with real eel talk and fill up the records with loads of big eels caught by EVERY member. Lets show the knockers that we are not going to keel over and die, lets show'em we've got some real spunk and all pull together to put 100% more effort into the Club and make it something that each and every one of us can be really proud of. Lets fill up the Club's photo display boards with big eels caught by current members and bloody quickly, we cannot keep living on the glories of past members any longer, it's time for the present membership to rise up and become the new National Anguilla Club and turn a few heads our way for a change. We have lost some very fine and dedicated eel anglers in the last few years and Dave Holman especially springs to mind, why do these real eel anglers resign from the supposed Club for eel angling specialists? I would hazard a guess and say that it is because they see themselves doing all the graft and on-one else putting in the effort to back them up and in the end they get to a stage where they don't need the NAC and just leave. Lets ALL make sure that this doesn't happen again and pull together to hoist the NAC flag way up high.

So how about it lads, we have some new blood in the Club now and I wish them every success, I wellcome them onto the new Anguilla Club team. Lets all play like a team and help each other and lets all do the one thing we joined the team to do.....
.....Lets go out and CATCH THOSE EELS.

On a brighter note, I hope that Brians talk at the Nottingham conference went really well, sorry I couldn't get there Brian but on the bike its a bit difficult in this weather I would have been blown right off the motorway. Sadly I got your letter a bit late perhaps next year eh Brian. I was sad to hear that Arthur had left the Club. I think he may have jumped the gun abit and should have had a rethink. I for one used to enjoy what he wrote in the Bulletin and atleast he put pen to paper and let his

NOTABLE EELS - 1986 by BRIAN CRAWFORD

<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>CAPTOR</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>BAIT</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
8:0	July	K. Rowles	Weirwood Res.	W	AT
7:4	Aug	D. Willis	Kent Stour	DB	AM
6:10*	July	J. Sidley	B'ham Pool	DB	JS
6:8*	May	D. Taylor	Lincs Water	W	DT
6:3	June	P. Gustafson	Oxford Water	DB	AT
6:1*	Nov	J. Sidley	B'ham Water	DB	JS
6:0%	June	C. Murden	Cambs Lake	W	AT
5:11	Aug	P. Miller	Bucks Water	DB	AT
5:8	March	P. Gustafson	S.W. Water	DB	PG
5:8	July	P. MacDonald	W. Yorks Water	DB	AM
5:8	July	K. Mann	Suffolk Lake	DB	AM
5:6	Aug	C. Murden	Cambs Water	W	AT
5:5	May	?	Colemere	W	BC
5:4	July	S. Jones	R. Tees	W	AM
5:4	Aug	L. Wilson	Tenmade Lakes	Mussel	AM
5:4	Oct	B. Stuart	Broadlands Lake	DB	AT
5:3	July	W. Rayner	Wores Lake	W	AT
5:1*	July	J. Sidley	B'ham Water	DB	JS
5:0*	May	P. Taylor	Lincs Water	W	DT
5:0	July	G. Mountcastle	Lincoln Water	DB	AT
5:0	Aug	K. Hughes	P. Severn, Louks.	W	AT
4:15	May	?	Colemere	W	BC
4:12*	May	D. Taylor	Lincs Water	W	DT
4:12*	July	J. Sidley	B'ham Water	DB	JS
4:12	Aug	A. Martin	Stanley Park	W	AM
4:10	April	J. Reilly	Colemere	W	BC
4:9*	May	J. Sidley	Kyer Pool	W	JS
4:9*	May	J. Mitchell	Lincs Water	W	JM
4:9	June	P. Lemmons	Devon pool	?	JS
4:9	July	A. Martin	Stanley Park	W	AT
4:9	Nov	C. Morden	Cambs Lake	DB	AM
4:8	April	P. Crawford	Colemere	W	BC
4:8	June	M. Brown	W. Mids Water	DB	AT
4:8	Aug	P. Miller	Gt. Ouse, N. Pagne	LDB	AT
4:8*	Aug	J. Sidley	B'ham Water	DB	JS
4:8*	Aug	J. Sidley	B'ham Water	DB	JS
4:7*	Aug	J. Sidley	B'ham Water	DB	JS
4:7	Sep	P. Birkenhead	Lymmvalle Pool	W	AM
4:6*	June	J. Sidley	B'ham Water	DB	JS
4:5	July	I. Sanders	R. Welland	DB	AM
4:5	Aug	C. Murden	Cambs Water	W	AT
4:4*	May	D. Taylor	Lincs Water	W	DT
4:4*	June	J. Sidley	B'ham Water	DB	JS
4:4	July	P. Miller	R. Gt. Ouse	DB	AT
4:4	Aug	N. Shone	Suffolk Dyke	DB	AM
4:3*	July	J. Sidley	B'ham Water	DB	JS
4:3*	Sep	J. Sidley	B'ham Water	DB	JS
4:2	May	?	Colemere	W	BC
4:2*	June	J. Sidley	B'ham Water	DB	JS
4:2	Aug	R. Cole	R. Gt. Ouse N.P.	DB	AT
4:2*	Aug	J. Sidley	B'ham Water	DB	JS
4:2	Aug	P. Gustafson	Oxford Water	DB	AM
4:2	Sep	D. Arlott	Cardiff Res.	W	AM
4:2	Sep	S. Gothard	Barton on Humber	M	AM
4:1*	June	J. Sidley	B'ham Water	DB	JS
4:1	Nov	C. Murden	Cambs Water	DB	AM
4:0*	May	D. Taylor	Lincs Water	W	DT
4:0*	May	K. Stephenson	Lincs Water	W	KS
4:0	Aug	D. Willis	Kent Stour	DB	AM
4:0*	Aug	J. Sidley	B'ham Water	DB	JS
4:0*	Sep	J. Sidley	B'ham Water	DB	JS

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

AT = Angling Times

AM = Anglers Mail

DB = Dead bait

W = Worm

JS = John Sidley

PC = Brian Crawford

KS = Kevin Stephenson

DT = David Taylor

PG = Paul Gustafson

JM = John Mitchell

* = Present members of the National Anguilla Club.

ANALYSIS OF 5Lb+ EELS PER YEAR SINCE 1960

1960 - 6	1970 - 2	1980 - 7
1961 - 13	1971 - 5	1981 - 16 (60/4Lb+)
1962 - 5	1972 - 8	1982 - 14
1963 - 5	1973 - 15	1983 - 24
1964 - 3	1974 - 25	1984 - 12
1965 - 1	1975 - 24	1985 - 26
1966 - 11	1976 - 31 (72/4Lb+)	1986 - 21 (61/4Lb+)
1967 - 16	1977 - 12	1987 - ?
1968 - 9	1978 - 20	1988 - ?
1969 - 6	1979 - 10	1989 - ?
<u>75/5Lb+</u>	<u>152/5Lb+</u>	<u>120/5Lb+(3 years to go)</u>

ANALYSIS OF TOP 50 EELS (AS IN FISHING FOR BIG EELS/Brian CRAWFORD)

PPF-1940 just two recorded - 1929 and 1932

1940 - 1949 2

1950 - 1959 4

1960 - 1969 7

1970 - 1979 16

1980 - 1986 22 (3 more years to go)

(NOTE: now require an eel over 7Lb 3oz to go into TOP 50)

ANALYSIS OF THE BEST EELS OF THE 80's

(RECORD 11:2 1978 Steven Terry)

1980 31 eels over 4Lb, best 7:14, 7:10

1981 60 eels over 4Lb, best 8:9

1982 36 eels over 4Lb, best 7:8, 7:6

1983 48 eels over 4Lb, best 8:10, 7:8, 7:8

1984 19 eels over 4Lb, best 10:3, 8:13, 9:0, 7:4, 8:0

1985 37 eels over 4Lb, best 9:13, 9:7, 9:2, 8:12, 7:10, 7:8, 7:6

1986 61 eels over 4Lb, best 8:0, 7:4

(NOTE - 22 eels over 7:4 since 1980 - nearly half TOP 50)

C. Mitchell's record of 8:8 stood for 47 years

A. Dart's record of 8:10 stood for 9 years

S. Terry's record of 11:2 has now stood for 8 years

A. Dart's record of 8:10 has now been beaten by at least 8 fish, 4 times in 1985.

THE DROP OFF INDICATOR

by Dave Taylor

This type of indicator is very simple and extremely reliable, it is ideal for the eel come pike angler in all conditions. The alarm is also fairly easy to construct.

PARTS LIST

The parts shown below are all obtainable from any electronics stockist such as Tandy's. I have given the R.S. component number where necessary because most shops deal with this company, R.S. that is.

1 off	Mercury tilt switch	RS 339-881	£1.80
1 off	A.B.S. box	RS 502-326	£1.50
1 off	LED		20p
1 off	2.5mm Jack plug & socket		90p
1 off	PP3 Battery and clip		£1.00
1 off	Toggle switch		40p
1 off	3-16vdc Alarm	RS 249-794	£2.00
2 off	Terry clips		20p
18 inches	Thin coaxial cable		20p
2 off	Map pins		free
1 off	Polystyrene ball		20p
		Total	<u>£8.40</u>

CONSTRUCTION

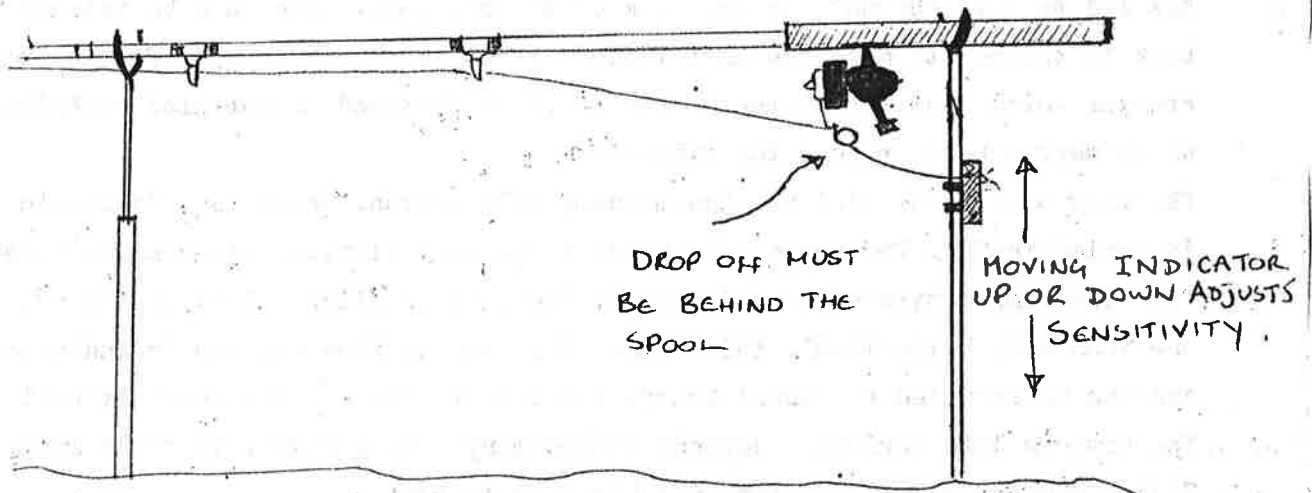
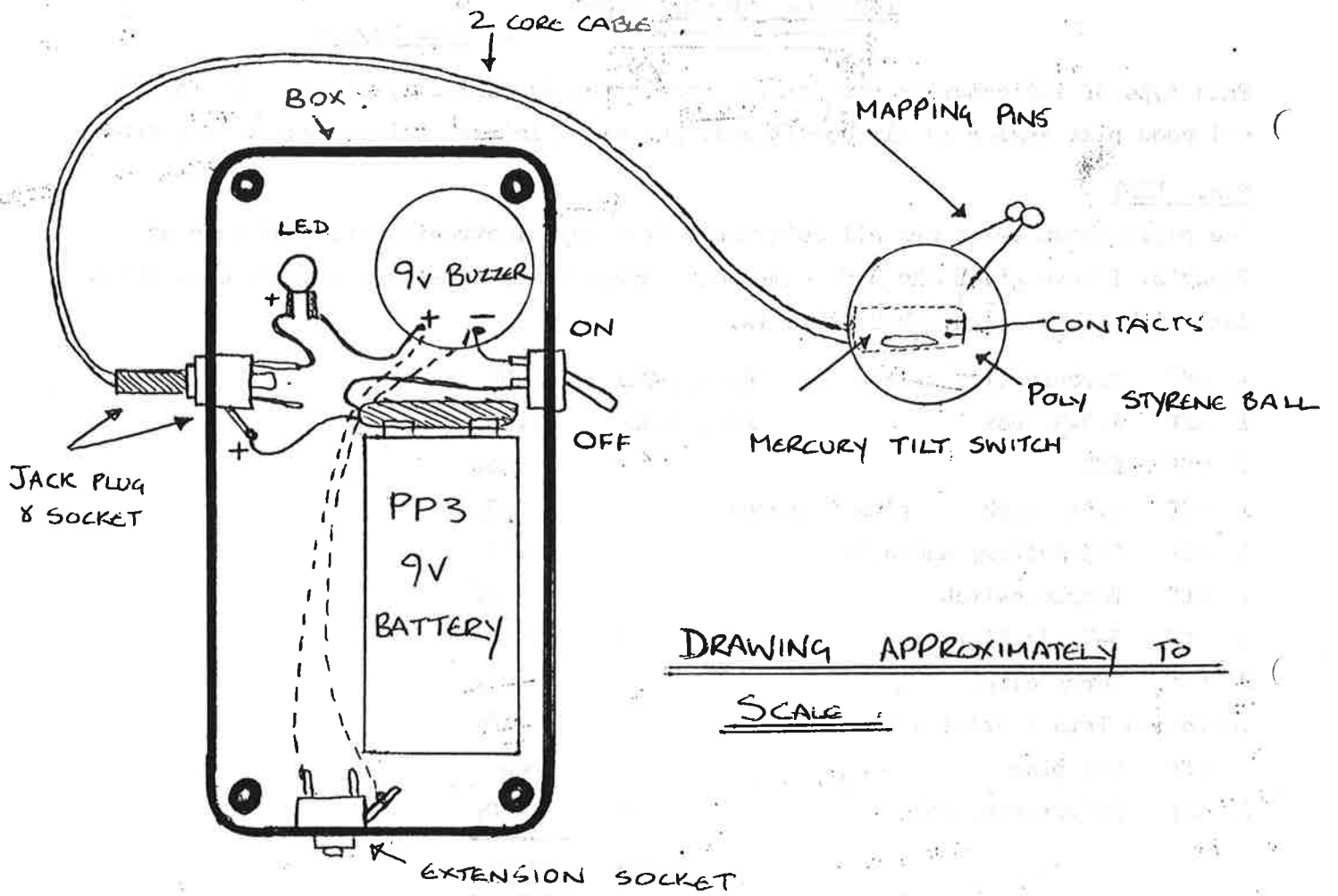
The components are placed in the A.B.S. box as shown in the diagram and wired up with care being taken with the polarities.

I mount the toggle switch (on and off) upside down to conventional way because when you have a rod in your hand I find it is far easier to knock the switch DOWN for off. The terry clips, which are obtainable from most tackle shops, are mounted on the box lid to hold the unit on the back of the rod rest. Holes can be drilled in the back of the box to make the unit louder. It is also very easy to fun an extension speaker using a socket in the bottom of the unit wired in parrallel with the speaker which serves both or just the extension.

The poly ball is drilled and the mercury tilt switch, which is soldered to the cable, is sealed inside. The cable used needs to be very flexible two conductor cable and fine instrument type coaxial is ideal. The line is clipped between the map pins about one inch long being ideal. This allows the line to flow through to indicate dropbacks and can be adjusted for sensitivity. You can of course paint the poly ball any colour. The battery life obviously depends on how many runs you get, it would last John Sidley about a season and Pete Stickland 20 years!!

With a total component price of about £8.50 they are cheap compared with other units of the same type on the market and in my opinion as good if not better. I do supply the units ready made at the following discount price for NAC members:-

Complete drop off indicator £11.50 or £22 a pair. Spare arms £3.00 Orange/White/Black
Extension boxes 1-4 heads with lights £5.00 Extension cables 25p mtr all plus 50p P+P.
I can also supply the components required, just ring me at home on 0733-61538.



41b 9oz - Kyer Pool - Ledgered Five Lobworms - 9.5.86 NIGHT.
 11b 0oz - Kyer Pool - Ledgered Five Lobworms - 9.5.86 NIGHT.
 11b 04oz - Kyer Pool - Ledgered Five Lobworms - 16.5.86 NIGHT.
 21b 02oz - Kyer Pool - Ledgered Five Lobworms - 23.5.86 NIGHT.
 11b 06oz - Kyer Pool - Ledgered Five Lobworms - 24.5.86 NIGHT
 21b 11oz - Kyer Pool - Ledgered Five Lobworms - 28.5.86 NIGHT
 11b 11oz 2 Kyer Pool - Ledgered Five Lobworms - 28.5.86 NIGHT
 21b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - OFF/BOTTOM LIVE BREAM - 16.6.86 NIGHT.
 21b 03oz - B, HAM LAKE - OFF/BOTTOM LIVE BREAM - 16.6.86 NIGHT.
 11b 04oz - B, HAM LAKE - OFF/BOTTOM LIVE ROACH - 16.6.86 NIGHT.
 11b 01oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERED BREAM TAIL - 16.6.86. NIGHT.
 41b 04oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED ROACH HEAD - 16.6.86. DAWN.
 21b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED ROACH HEAD - 16.6.86. DAWN.
 11b 09oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED BREAM TAIL - 16.6.86. DAWN.
 21b 09oz - B, HAM LAKE - OFF/BOTTOM LIVE BREAM - 18.6.86. NIGHT.
 21b 12oz - B, HAM LAKE - OFF/BOTTOM LIVE BREAM - 18.6.86. NIGHT.
 41b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED ROACH HEAD - 18.6.86. NIGHT.
 11b 12oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED ROACH HEAD - 18.6.86. NIGHT.
 11b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED ROACH HEAD - 18.6.86. DAWN.
 21b 0oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED ROACH TAIL - 18.6.86. DAWN.
 11b 01oz - B, HAM LAKE - OFF/BOTTOM LIVE BREAM - 18.6.86. DAWN.
 11b 04oz - B, HAM LAKE - OFF/BOTTOM LIVE ROACH - 18.6.86. DAWN.
 21b 01oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED LIVE ROACH - 18.6.86. DAWN.
 21b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED FULL DEAD ROACH - 24.6.86. DAY.
 11b 14oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED FULL DEAD ROACH - 24.6.86. DAY.
 21b 14oz 2 B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED FULL DEAD ROACH - 24.6.86. DAY.
 21b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED FULL DEAD ROACH - 24.6.86. DAY.
 11b 15oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED FULL DEAD ROACH - 24.6.86. DAY.
 11b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED FULL DEAD ROACH - 24.6.86. DAY.
 21b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED FULL DEAD ROACH - 25.6.86. DAY.
 21b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED FULL DEAD ROACH - 25.6.86. DAY.
 11b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED FULL DEAD ROACH - 25.6.86. DAY.
 21b 06oz - WELSH PIT - OFF/BOTTOM FOUR LOBS - 28.6.86. NIGHT.
 11b 14oz - WELSH PIT - OFF/BOTTOM FOUR LOBS - 28.6.86. NIGHT.
 21b 09oz - WELSH PIT - OFF/BOTTOM FOUR LOBS - 28.6.86. NIGHT.
 11b 11oz - WELSH PIT - OFF/BOTTOM FOUR LOBS - 28.6.86. NIGHT.
 21b 14oz - WELSH PIT - OFF/BOTTOM FOUR LOBS - 28.6.86. NIGHT.
 21b 11oz - WELSH PIT - OFF/BOTTOM FOUR LOBS - 28.6.86. NIGHT.
 21b 13oz - WELSH PIT - OFF/BOTTOM FOUR LOBS - 28.6.86. NIGHT.
 21b 15oz - WELSH PIT - OFF/BOTTOM FOUR LOBS - 28.6.86. NIGHT.
 11b 14oz - WELSH PIT - OFF/BOTTOM FOUR LOBS - 28.6.86. NIGHT.

21b 02oz - WELSH PIT - OFF/BOTTOM FOUR LOBS - 28.6.86. NIGHT.
 21b 08oz - WELSH PIT - OFF/BOTTOM FOUR LOBS - 28.6.86. NIGHT.
 41b 02oz - WELSH PIT - OFF/BOTTOM FOUR LOBS - 28.6.86. NIGHT.
 21b 08oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED ROACH TAIL - 30.6.86. NIGHT.
 11b 14oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED ROACH TAIL - 30.6.86. NIGHT.
 21b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED ROACH TAIL - 30.6.86. DAWN.
 41b 01oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED ROACH TAIL - 30.6.86. DAWN.
 21b 00oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED BREAM HEAD - 3.7.86. DAY.
 11b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED ROACH TAIL - 3.7.86. DAY.
 11b 08oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED ROACH TAIL - 3.7.86. DAY.
 11b 14oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED ROACH TAIL - 3.7.86. DAY.
 21b 12oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED ROACH TAIL - 3.7.86. DAY.
 11b 12oz - KYER POOL - LEDGRED FOUR LOBS - 5.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 9oz - KYER POOL - LEDGRED FOUR LOBS - 5.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED ROACH TAIL - 8.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 12oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED ROACH TAIL - 8.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 08oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED ROACH HEAD - 8.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED ROACH TAIL - 8.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED ROACH TAIL - 8.7.86. NIGHT.
 31b 14oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED ROACH HEAD - 8.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED ROACH HEAD - 8.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED ROACH HEAD - 8.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 12oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGRED ROACH HEAD - 8.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 12oz - B, HAM LAKE - NOT PUT DOWN - 11.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 00oz - B, HAM LAKE - NOT PUT DOWN - 11.7.86. NIGHT.
 31b 04oz - B, HAM LAKE - NOT PUT DOWN - 11.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - NOT PUT DOWN - 11.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - NOT PUT DOWN - 11.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 04oz - B, HAM LAKE - NOT PUT DOWN - 11.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - NOT PUT DOWN - 11.7.86. NIGHT.
 31b 03oz - B, HAM LAKE - OFF/BOTTOM - 11.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - OFF/BOTTOM - 11.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 15oz - B, HAM LAKE - OFF/BOTTOM - 11.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 12oz - B, HAM LAKE - OFF/BOTTOM - 11.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 15.7.86. DAY.
 21b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 15.7.86. DAY.
 11b 09oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 16.7.86. NIGHT.
 41b 03oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 16.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 12oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 16.7.86. NIGHT.

21b 13oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 16.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 14oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 16.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 18.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 01oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 18.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 12oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 18.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 08oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 18.7.86. NIGHT.
 31b 08oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 18.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 03oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 18.7.86. NIGHT.
 41b 12oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 18.7.86. NIGHT.
 31b 14oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 18.7.86. NIGHT.
 31b 12oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 18.7.86. NIGHT.
 31b 01oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 18.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 18.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 09oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 18.7.86. NIGHT.
 51b 01oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 18.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 18.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 18.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 14oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 18.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 09oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 18.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 19.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 21.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 21.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 08oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 21.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 14oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 21.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 03oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 22.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 12oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 22.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 15oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 22.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 22.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 22.7.86. NIGHT.
 31b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 22.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 09oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 22.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 0oz - B, HA, LAKE - LEDGERING - 22.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 09oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 24.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 24.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 14oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 24.7.86. NIGHT.
 31b 03oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 24.7.86. NIGHT.
 31b 07oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 24.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 12oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 26.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 26.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 09oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 26.7.86. NIGHT.

21b 0oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 28.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 12oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 28.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 04oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 28.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 28.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 03oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 28.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 28.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 13oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 29.7.86. NIGHT.
 21b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 29.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 04oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING - 29.7.86. NIGHT.
 11b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH TAIL - date not put down - NIGHT.
 61b 10oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - date not put down - NIGHT.
 21b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM TAIL - date not put down - NIGHT.
 21b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 1.8.86. NIGHT.
 11b 13oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 1.8.86. NIGHT.
 21b 07oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH TAIL - 4.8.86. NIGHT.
 31b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 5.8.86. NIGHT.
 41b 07oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 5.8.86. NIGHT.
 31b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM TAIL - 5.8.86. NIGHT.
 31b 03oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH TAIL - 5.8.86. NIGHT.
 31b 08oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 5.8.86. NIGHT.
 11b 13oz - B, HAM LAKE - not put down - 7.8.86. NIGHT.
 11b 09oz - B, HAM LAKE - not put down - 7.8.86. NIGHT.
 21b 04oz - B, HAM LAKE - not put down - 7.8.86. NIGHT.
 21b 07oz - B, HAM LAKE - not put down - 7.8.86. NIGHT.
 21b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - not put down - 7.8.86. NIGHT.
 31b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - not put down - 7.8.86. NIGHT.
 11b 03oz - B, HAM LAKE - not put down - 7.8.86. NIGHT.
 11b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM TAIL - 8.8.86. NIGHT.
 11b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 8.8.86. NIGHT.
 31b 13oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING EEL SECTION - 8.8.86. NIGHT.
 21b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 8.8.86. NIGHT.
 11b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM TAIL - 8.8.86. NIGHT.
 21b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 9.8.86. NIGHT.
 11b 01oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM TAIL - 9.8.86. NIGHT.
 31b 01oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 9.8.86. NIGHT.
 11b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 10.8.86. NIGHT.
 21b 07oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 10.8.86. NIGHT.
 31b 03oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 11.8.86. NIGHT.
 31b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH TAIL - 11.8.86. NIGHT.

41b 08oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH TAIL - 11.8.86. NIGHT.
 31b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 11.8.86. NIGHT.
 31b 01oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH TAIL - 11.8.86. NIGHT.
 31b 07oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 11.8.86. NIGHT.
 31b 00oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH TAIL - 11.8.86. NIGHT.
 41b 00oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 11.8.86. NIGHT.
 11b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 13.8.86. NIGHT.
 11b 03oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 13.8.86. NIGHT.
 31b 01oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 13.8.86. NIGHT.
 21b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 15.8.86. NIGHT.
 21b 04oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING EEL STEAK - 15.8.86. NIGHT.
 11b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 15.8.86. NIGHT.
 11b 08oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 15.8.86. NIGHT.
 21b 03oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 15.8.86. NIGHT.
 11b 04oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 18.8.86. NIGHT.
 31b 03oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING EEL STEAK - 18.8.86. NIGHT.
 21b 14oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM TAIL - 18.8.86. NIGHT.
 31b 05oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING EEL STEAK - 18.8.86. NIGHT.
 21b 12oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM TAIL - 18.8.86. NIGHT.
 21b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM TAIL - 18.8.86. NIGHT.
 31b 14oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING EEL STEAK - 18.8.86. NIGHT.
 11b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 18.8.86. NIGHT.
 21b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 20.8.86. NIGHT.
 31b 01oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM TAIL - 20.8.86. DAY.
 41b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 20.8.86. DAY.
 11b 12oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH TAIL - 20.8.86. DAY.
 21b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 20.8.86. DAY.
 31b 04oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 21.8.86. NIGHT.
 41b 08oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM TAIL - 21.8.86. NIGHT.
 At this point I had taken 67 over 11b, 78 over 21b, 29 over 31b, 12 over 41b, one
 and the 61b 10oz.
 31b 13oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING EEL STEAK - 23.8.86. NIGHT.
 11b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 26.8.86. DAY.
 11b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM TAIL - 26.8.86. DAY.
 21b 12oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 26.8.86. DAY.
 21b 6oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH TAIL - 26.8.86. DAY.
 31b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 26.8.86. DAY.
 11b 08oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 28.8.86. DAY.
 11b 14oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 28.8.86. DAY.
 21b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 28.8.86. DAY.

21b 14oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 29.8.86. NIGHT.
 31b 03oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 29.8.86. NIGHT.
 21b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 29.8.86. NIGHT.
 11b 12oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 29.8.86. NIGHT.
 31b 09oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 29.8.86. NIGHT.
 31b 07oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 29.8.86. NIGHT.
 11b 0oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 31.8.86. NIGHT.
 11b 04oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 31.8.86. NIGHT.
 21b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 31.8.86. NIGHT.
 31b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 31.8.86. NIGHT.
 11b 04oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 8.9.86. DAY.
 21b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 8.9.86. DAY.
 31b 14oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 8.9.86. DAY.
 21b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 8.9.86. DAY.
 11b 12oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 12.9.86. NIGHT.
 21b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 12.9.86. NIGHT.
 31b 03oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 12.9.86. NIGHT.
 41b 0oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 12.9.86. DAWN.
 21b 09oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 12.9.86. DAWN.
 21b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 13.9.86. NIGHT.
 11b 09oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 15.9.86. DAY.
 31b 13oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 15.9.86. DAY.
 41b 03oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 15.9.86. DAY.
 31b 0oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 15.9.86. DAY.
 21b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 15.9.86. DAY.
 21b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 18.9.86. DAY.
 11b 14oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 18.9.86. DAY.
 31b 01oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 18.9.86. DAY.
 31b 04oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 18.9.86. DAY.
 21b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 20.9.86. DAY.
 21b 03oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 23.9.86. DAY.
 31b 13oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH TAIL - 26.9.86. DAY.
 21b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 27.9.86. DAY.
 21b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 28.9.86. DAY.
 21b 0oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 28.9.86. DAY.
 21b 03oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 28.9.86. DAY.
 31b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 2.10.86. DAY.
 11b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 3.10.86. NIGHT.
 21b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 3.10.86. NIGHT.
 21b 14oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BREAM HEAD - 3.10.86. NIGHT.

21b 03oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 3.10.86 NIGHT.
 21b 12oz } B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 3.10.86 NIGHT.
 21b 09oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 7.10.86 DAY.
 21b 11oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 14.10.86 DAY AND NIGHT.
 21b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 14.10.86 DAY AND NIGHT.
 31b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 14.10.86 DAY AND NIGHT.
 31b 0oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 14.10.86 DAY AND NIGHT.
 21b 02oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 14.10.86 DAY AND NIGHT.
 31b 08oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING EEL STEAK - 14.10.86 DAY AND NIGHT.
 21b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 14.10.86 DAY AND NIGHT.
 31b 04oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 14.10.86 DAY AND NIGHT.
 11b 15oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BLEAK HEAD - 18.10.86 DAY.
 21b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE } LEDGERING BLEAK HEAD - 19.10.86 DAY.
 11b 01oz } B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING BLEAK HEAD - 19.10.86 DAY.
 11b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 22.10.86 DAY.
 21b 12oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 22.10.86 DAY.
 31b 08oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 22.10.86 DAY.
 11b 13oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 22.10.86 DAY.
 31b 10oz - B, HAM LAKE } LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 22.10.86 DAY.
 41b 04oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 24.10.86 DAY.
 31b 03oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 24.10.86 DAY.
 31b 04oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 1.11.86 DAY.
 21b 12oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 1.11.86 DAY.
 31b 06oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 2.11.86 DAY.
 61b 01oz - B, HAM LAKE - LEDGERING ROACH HEAD - 6.11.86 DAY.

All told 126 sessions for the 1986 season producing the following overall results:-

83 eels over 11b.

109 eels over 21b.

52 eels over 31b.

15 eels over 41b.

One at 5:01

& Two over 61b, at 6:01 and 6:10.

These results were achieved by devoting myself almost exclusively to one water, and what a water that is. A couple of very big eels were lost on the water and many lesser fish were also dropped. My efforts this coming season will be centred around this water and hopefully I will be able to get four nights away down there as I strongly believe that this water can and probably will break the record.

It is worth mentioning that the water is about 100 acres and of all that space I have only fished three swims. Over the season these swims have not slowed down one bit, although one of them has produced a good number of the bigger fish including my 5:01 6:10 and many of the 4's, will this swim produce in such good numbers in 1987?

I believe that a great deal more work is needed on this water as the size does not allow me to have explored it's true potential in only one season. The shallows and margins even where weedbeds are present only produced bootlaces and it was not until I found water over 10 feet deep and with a thick mud bottom that I started to contact the larger eels in numbers. During the summer the lake was drained low for some time and this allowed me to pinpoint several other areas that are covered in the black silty mud that has already produced the eels for me.

This water has one great problem and that is the numbers of bootlaces and the number of dropped runs they give, although I am not so sure that all the runs missed are from boots and so this year I experimented with all kinds of hook rigs. Singles, double hook rigs, instant strike jobs and even the wait an hour method, but still many runs were missed. All sorts of baits were tried and only the eel steaks were left alone for any period. Dave Walker has suggested using live bootlaces as bait for the real biggies, and I think he may just be right. (I know I'm right! DPW)

Some of you may moan and groan at this list and indeed you may not have got this far. Well to me this is not the numbers game just plain dedicated eel fishing and what can be achieved if you put the effort in on the right water. As I've always said "You only get out of fishing what you are prepared to put into it."

I wish you all a very successful season in 1987.

JOHN SIDLEY (THE OLD UN)



SESSION REPORTING 1987

by Dave Walker

THE MORE FOR LESS APPROACH 87

&

John Sidley

For some time now we have been talking and analysing the results and conclusions of the present type of reporting being carried out by the club, and it is our contention that the scheme currently in operation is unlikely to produce the results that it was designed to bring us. This is because of several factors.

Firstly, the reporting scheme encompasses eels of all sizes and this leads to many false results influencing the overall picture. This applies especially to the use of baits and the effectiveness of certain rigs.

Secondly, the scheme relies on a large volume of information being fed into it, and sadly this is not the case at the present time. Therefore it's results and conclusions must be biased towards the majority of input (ie. Johns results this year) and this leads to the painstakingly produced results only being of use to those members who supplied the vast majority of data in the first place. Obviously this is not a perfect situation as the people doing the fishing will know what is going on on their waters and only learn from there own results, they are getting nothing from the session reporting at present.

Thirdly, the reporting has suffered for some time from a lack of direction. This is

in no way the fault of the reporting officers, and indeed Terry's recent introduction of Barometric Pressures into the scheme was a good and positive step forward. BUT....
...and it is a big but, the scheme is still suffering from a lack of quality data to really get it's teeth into. We cannot ever hope to have any really juicy conclusions within these pages if the scheme is only supported by a few members and then only when they remember to do it!

There are a couple of other small points that we feel are wrong but they are mostly personal and not really general faults of the overall scheme and therefore not worth mentioning here.

So what do we propose to get this vital part of the club going again. Well both of us sincerely feel that the reporting scheme should, if possible, help us to catch bigger and better eels. Now this is a tall order and unlike the schemes of the sixties and seventies we cannot rely on lots and lots of data from members all over the country, fishing all sorts of waters. It is with this in mind that we have gone away from the accepted form of statistical results and placed our emphasis on the gathering of quality information of the sort that we feel is important to help us in our search for larger eels. Therefore we propose that only eels of 4lb and over will merit full reporting and any lesser fish will require only an entry on a 'tick sheet' type of form. As this is the size of eel that we would all like to catch regularly then it seems logical to us to gather as much information about this size of fish as possible. We believe any fool can go out and catch loads of lesser fish but when 4lb is reached then the real eel angler takes over.

The form we have produced is on the next page and we feel has covered the basic data needed to form the start of useful analysis into the capture of these larger eels. We have left out details such as length and girth, exact time of capture and exact weather at time of the run along with rod hours, water and air temperatures and number of rods used. We do not discount these points as irrelevant just as superfluous to the needs of the scheme at present.

We have tried to follow up several areas where we feel data could prove to be of great benefit, these are, bank fished, swim depth, snags, and the source of the eels. These and any other part of the scheme could be expanded at any time to give more and better results for the benefit of the club in general, because this is our aim, a scheme that can benefit every member in the club by hopefully showing trends towards bigger eels. We have made the form as easy as possible to fill out on purpose and all it really requires is about 90 seconds of effort to complete as the vast majority of sections are answered with a tick.

We hope you find this scheme of interest and see the benefits as we do, of course if you think we are totally wrong then you have something to write into the Bulletin. Any further discussion should really have been conducted in the Bulletin but the closeness of the SGM indicates that this would be the ideal time to chat about it all.

Proposed form for 4lb plus eels:-

THE NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB

4lb + INFORMATION SHEET

WEIGHT _____
CAPTOR _____
WATER _____
COUNTY _____
RIVER _____
SYSTEM _____

TIME TAKEN
DAY _____
DUSK _____
NIGHT _____
DAWN _____

WEED PRESENT IN SWIM
DENSE _____
PATCHY _____
BOTTOM COVERING _____
NONE _____

WATER DETAILS

GRAVEL PIT _____
NATURAL LAKE _____
RESERVOIR _____
CANAL _____
RIVER/DRAIN _____
OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

INFLOW

YES _____
NO _____

SIZE OF EEL POPULATION

SMALL _____
AVERAGE _____
LARGE _____

BAIT TAKEN ON (GIVE DETAILS)

ADDATIVE (IF YES GIVE DETAILS)

YES _____
NO _____

PREBAIT/GROUNDBAIT (GIVE DETAILS)

PREBAIT YES _____

PREBAIT NO _____

GROUNDBAIT YES _____

GROUNDBAIT NO _____

TYPE OF TAKE

NO INDICATION _____
TWITCH _____
STEADY RUN _____
FAST RUN _____

BANK FISHED

NORTH _____
SOUTH _____
EAST _____
WEST _____

DISTANCE CAST

0/5 YARDS _____
5/15 YARDS _____
15/30 YARDS _____
30/50 YARDS _____
50+ YARDS _____

DEPTH OF SWIM

0/5 FEET _____
6/10 FEET _____
11/20 FEET _____
21+ FEET _____

DEPTH FISHED

ON BOTTOM _____
OFF BOTTOM
(DISTANCE) _____
SUB SURFACE
(DISTANCE) _____
SURFACE _____

TYPE OF BOTTOM

MUD/SILT _____
SAND/GRAVEL _____
OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

SNAGS PRESENT

YES (SPECIFY) _____
NO _____

ANGUILLA AND WALKER, EELS AND BEER,

CAME TO HEMEL ALL IN A YEAR.

by John Pearce & Tom Riley

Most of our summer during 1985 was taken up in the pursuit of the rather elusive barbel of the river Thames in Oxfordshire and the not so elusive carp of the Colne Valley in west London. The carp fishing being done on a water well known to 'Del-boy', or to the un-hip, Rodney Meadows.

It was during a night on the Thames that we (or at least John) hit a fish which he thought was quite a decent barbel, and having never caught one he wouldn't know anyway but it felt like they were meant to feel (lovely boy!!). It turned out to be a fish which had belied it's true size and species very well and an eel of 2:15 was duly weighed and admired. Although we had talked a fair deal about fishing for eels we had not actually got round to it, but this fish changed our minds and we now realised what a splendid challenge the eel really was. Our plans immediately changed and we began fishing specifically for eels.

Our future trips to the Colne valley were spent in pursuit of our new found quarry, but due to our lack of knowledge and the lateness of the season we achieved only limited success at this early stage. Both of us work together with the infamous Dylan (mines a pint) Wrathall and other members of the NASA Chiltern (Wonder) region, and we spend a great deal of time comparing results and chatting over problems. It was during this time that Dylan mentioned 'the Mouth of the South' and although a trifle worried about this strange character we arranged a meeting at the next Chiltern region meeting.

The meeting went well and Walker took the piss out of as many people as he could and even managed to impart a few bits of useful info about eels inbetween reminding us that his glass was empty, this happened every two minutes or so!! Now being kind and caring anglers and wishing to learn more about eels from Dave we stopped him getting knicked for drinking and driving (shame!) and we decided to put him up for the night. Having drawn straws and Tom losing we got him to Toms place and then we discovered our first big mistake, Walker has body odour from two distinct places. One is the obvious escape point after a gallon of beer, the other comes from his habit of putting his socks out for the night! After Toms family had moved back into the house and the Rentokil man had gone a relationship of some sort was formed (I wondered what that funny rash was? DPW) because after all Walker was not such a bad chap and further meeting took place in various watering holes in Hemel and Potters Bar. Soon after during one of our meetings Dave asked us if we would like to go to the Anguilla Club spring trip to Baston Fen Fisheries.

Although we could only fish for two nights it was to prove a bit of an eye opener in terms of eel fishing and rally driving at 80mph after drinking rather too much beer. Luckily enough the roads are relatively straight around Baston, we only wish someone had told Dave this! (My car went perfectly straight it was you two rolling around in the back that made it seem as if we were trying to drive in the ditches!!DPW)

Talking and fishing with the members of the Anguilla Club during that weekend and witnessing Kevin (no forceps) Stephenson's 4lb eel really sealed it for us, we were sure this was the way ahead for us. We even managed to land a few eels ourselves. So all in all it turned out to be a very enjoyable and informative two nights which really put us in good stead for the coming season.

Our season campaign was carefully planned and involved fishing the river Thames for quantity and to give us the necessary skills in timing runs etc. Experimenting with rigs and baits here would only help us and most importantly we could practice handling eels, not only for the camera but for their own well being. The results were quite startling with many eels of moderate size (probably small to most of you) most being 2-3lb. They were coming to the nets regularly and we decided to start on part two of our campaign. This involved an onslaught on canal eels, or so we thought. This proved far more difficult than we first thought and our results soon plummeted as did our confidence. The lack of success surprised us and Dave in part as we all thought that the stretch of canal we had chosen absolutely screamed eels and was sure to turn up the goods. After a few trips back to the Thames and with our moral well and truly boosted we returned to the canal and our results improved tremendously. We had two missed runs in four weeks fishing! boy these canal eels are a different breed to the dopey things in the Thames, aren't they?

So all in all we have enjoyed our time in the eel world so far and we are determined to do better each season especially on the canals and anybody who has had experience of these temperamental waters and would like to help us please do so, we would be most grateful. Or alternatively write something for the Bulletin about canals as I'm sure we are not the only members who have struggled on these waterways.

We are probably going to destroy our chances of catching anything this coming season as it looks like we will be fishing with 'Mouth of the South' for a good deal of the time. So if any member can tell us of a good deodourant (very strong version) and a sure fire hangover cure then we will really be most grateful indeed.

Just one last point for our first ever article in the Bulletin.

On reading the December Bulletin we wondered if the gradual demise of the Anguilla Club over the last few years could be due to the formation and rise of the British Eel Anglers Club and the possible attractions that lie therein?????????????

EDS COMMENT

Thanks a bundle Tom and John for the last article, it's so nice to ask brand new members to write something and actually get a response. Especially when the resulting article is as good as that. Thanks a lot lads.

DPW.

