

1989

NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB BULLETIN

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J.S. 8616 13oz

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EDITOR'S PAGE.

Well here we are again another bulletin. Before I go on I must apologise for the delay in issuing this bulletin. Now I know you have heard all these excuses before but I'm going to bore you again with them. My dear wife Jean decided to enter a race at my sons school and insisted I enter the other team. Now on her first run with a wet sponge she tripped up and fell after plenty of derision from me and my team she tried again and promptly doubled in pain (delayed action break) the xray showed a broken collar bone. Here ended my wifes involvement, Re. all the typing. As you can see from all the typing text that the work has been spread around friends who did bits here and there for me. That's the excuses over with now I am with the Bulletin.

Quite a few good articles for you to read the pictures of Jons record breaking 86lb 13oz in one nights catch plus a 5lb 30z caught on another session. There is Brian Crawford who wrote a good article about the Severn Trent Consultative Committee plus the latest report from the said committee. Still the same old people writing maybe we could have a few different names next time, and some pictures. Kevin sent me some of the last summer trip and some of himself, He is trying to stretch eels though.

Daves's face tells it all though after he wins the tankard for the biggest eel on the club trip. as for the late summer trip there was not one as know one sent me a positive venue. I hope to issue a few dates and places for next years fish ins in the early part of next year, so please send in any ideas for places to hold one.

J.S. wrote sitting on hard something or other I think it must have been his close pals Gerry's something or other. Just shows what all those lonely nights together does.

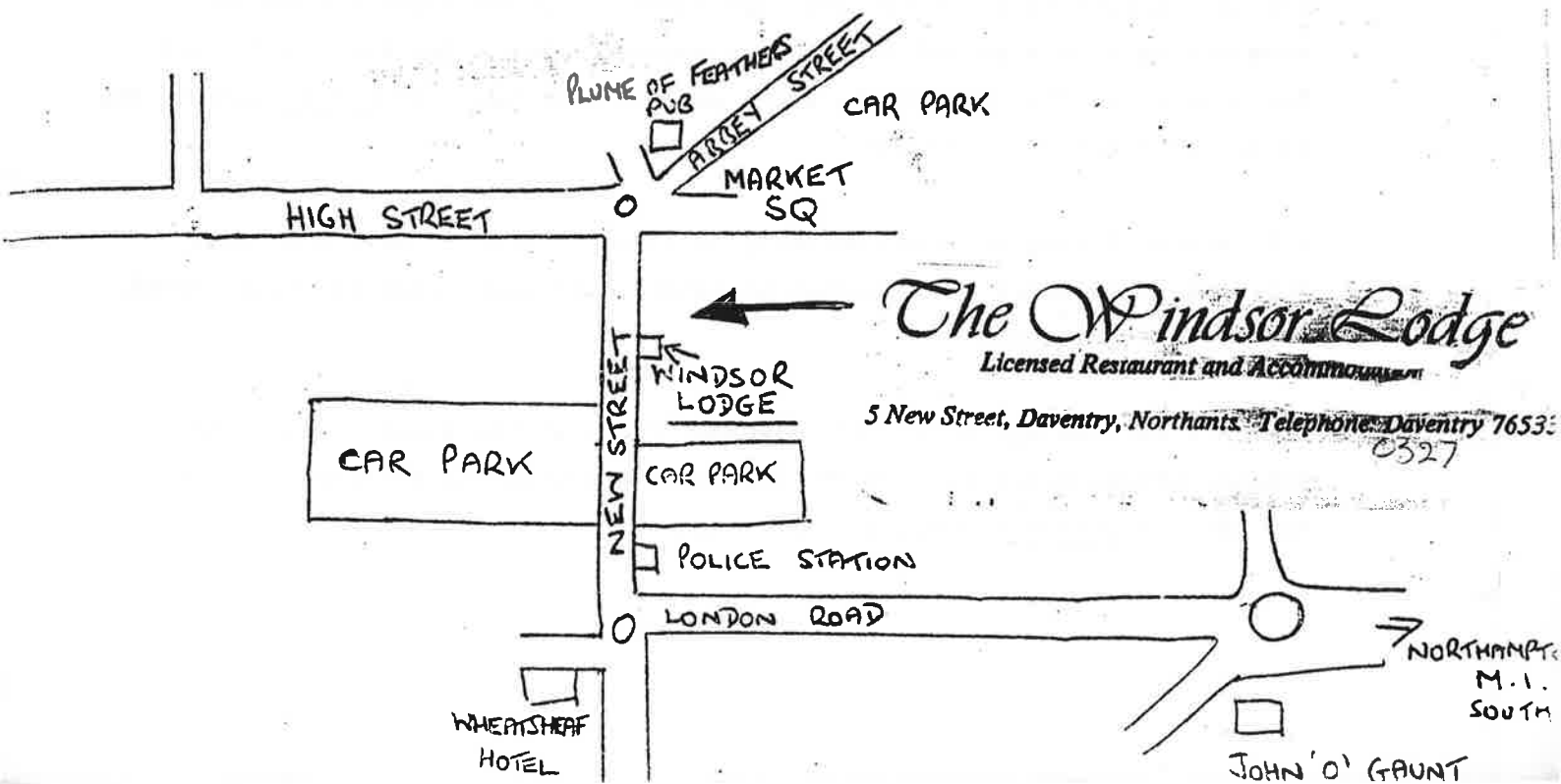
The date for the A.G.M. is 12th November 1989. at the usual venue, the Windsor Lodge, Daventry. I have included a map with the Bulletin to show you the way. Please try and get there all you newer members as well.

At the meeting there will be quite a few posts to be filled i.e. the Secretary's job, Bob Leyland will resign through ill health but will remain in the club. Brian wishes to shed some of his work load, So the membership secretary's job is up for grabs, also the treasurer if he can con anyone into doing it. Dont let this put you off coming to the meeting you into anything. There is usually a full Sunday dinner available so if you want one ring up the Windsor Lodge on 0327 76533 they are usually brill, and quite cheap.

Now then I have started a new bussiness venture which just about stops me from getting any free-bee photo copying done. Now just think about how many photocopies per mag and multiply it by the membership and you will see how many need diong, 1,400 copies for the last Bulletin, very expensive, so have a think about it and bring your suggestions to the A.G.M. At the A.G.M. we usually have a raffle and we all bring a prize, be it a bottle or cigars or fishing tackle or chocolates, so we all gat a prize at the end of the day, at this raffle there are two Viper Bate Alarms, worth a trip up the Motorway, if you ALL come you will. have a one in twenty two chance of winning them. Thats all from me so on with the Bulletin.

Hope you enjoy it.

Nick Rose Ed.



CONCERNING SEVERN-TRENT WATER AUTHORITY

With reference to the article in Volume 26 Issue Number 2 of the NAC Bulletin, by Jerry Parkin and his comments on the Severn-Trent Water byelaws revision. I would like to add my 2p's worth.

If Jerry had been at the Spring Meeting, he would have heard me report on the issue of 2/3 rods and close season fishing in the Severn-Trent Water area.

After I moved to Telford five years ago, I got myself onto the Severn Consultative Council and eventually onto its Committee. I had previously spent many years on the Great Ouse and Welland and Nene Consultatives so knew the ropes.

The three rod proposal came from Severn-Trent Water itself, for "consultation".

This means the proposal is put to the Severn Consultative Council and the Trent Consultative Council to test their response and also to make public the fact they have done so.

Anyone can apply to join a Consultative, provided they represent a Club or Association with angling or fisheries interests.

On the Severn Consultative, apart from myself are representatives of the PAC and the Three Counties Specimen Group. There are several representatives of commercial eel and salmon fisheries and representatives of many match orientated angling clubs.

When these new byelaw proposals were put to the Trent Council, the three rod proposal was rejected by about 13 votes to 8. At the Severn Council the votes were 11 to 9 against after a strong discussion and vote on an amendment to reduce the number of rods to be used to one. This was lost by 10 votes to 9 - a very close thing - the argument that clinched it not being passed was that the Council would only accept 2 rods instead of 1, provided the rule was amended to ensure the two rods were no more than 1 metre apart. So we were very close to losing even more.

On the debate regarding allowing fishing for all species during the close season on enclosed waters, proposed again by Severn-Trent Water for discussion (stirring) - not only was there massive arguments made about it but references made to continual abuse by "eel anglers" during the close season with respect to baits, hooks, techniques, using nets to keep fish in (banned) etc., there was a proposal made and almost accepted to ban all close season fishing including eeling.

Now the NAC and myself fought very hard in the early 1970's, when the Severn area joined up with the Trent area, and as eeling was allowed in one area but not the other during the close season, it was proposed then for a total ban. We won our case then, and by sensible and

informed arguments at this meeting, were able to persuade Severn Council not to push for a ban now.

It is all very well Jerry being so critical in his article, but I did write to Severn-Trent as Chairman (then) of NASA, representing over 8000 anglers putting our case, but I knew very well the letter would not count, nor did Jerry's petition or any other letters sent in by the others, as Severn-Trent will only respond to the Consultative Councils - that's why they exist and are funded by Severn-trent.

The only thing that counts is the vote taken at Consultatives.

I have enclosed copies of several pages of the quarterly report of the Severn-Trent Fishery Advisory Committee which may be of interest, especially that now you will have a minimum hook size to use in the Close Season. This was the only way they would accept continued eel angling.

I represent NASA on the Consultative, the NAC could be represented if someone is prepared to travel to the BAA headquarters in Birmingham between 2 - 4 times per year. This at least would give us (specim Hunters) 4 votes. What about the Trent Consultative - or indeed other areas - the NAC is not represented on any - is it? If you are interested, contact the NASA Consultative Co-ordinator Steve Bowers at 12 Machin Road, Erdington. Birmingham. B23 6DR. tel.021 350 0825.

NASA is represented on most Consultatives, so is the PAC and Carp Society. The more representatives we have, the more we may win.

Don't criticize - do something useful.

Brian Crawford

CONSERVATION OF EEL STOCKS IN THE SEVERN CATCHMENT

1 Introduction

The Authority has included a proposal to introduce a close season for elvers in the current byelaw review as a result of concern over declining eel numbers in the Severn catchment. Before advertisement of all proposed byelaws takes place, it was felt that the Committee may wish to weigh the undoubted costs of the close season introduction against the benefits and to consider whether this expense could more usefully be directed at other, potentially more successful, means of elver conservation.

2 Strategy

The Committee has received several papers on the widespread decline in eels and elvers which while setting out available information and strategies, also highlighted the paucity of data to support the introduction of a close season. The results of the two year research contract into eel populations discussed in February 1986 indicated evidence of a decline in the number of eels but could not prove a correlation with over-exploitation of the elver fishery. The Committee then resolved that:

- i) Elver stocking be continued at a minimum level of 300 kg/annum.
- ii) A survey be carried out to determine the present level of exploitation of both elvers and adult eels.
- iii) The necessary steps be taken to obtain an order under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 to implement catch returns for the eel and elver fisheries.
- iv) The possibility of implementing a close season for elvers be investigated with a view to excluding spring tides in mid May from the fishing season, and a further report be made to the Committee.

3 Progress since 1986 on resolutions i - iv) above

- i) 1986 192 kg elvers stocked. The 1986/87 budgets already approved did not enable the 300 kg rate to be achieved.
- 1987 138 kg stocked. Budget exhausted.
- 1988 342 kg stocked.
- 1989 None stocked because of difficulty in obtaining elvers and their high price (£85/kg).

Although stocking has been shown to be a productive strategy, these figures confirm the variability and fragility of the levy arrangement by which elvers are obtained at cost price from the traders.

- ii) Results of a questionnaire were reported to the Committee in February 1987 which while confirming the decline in the Severn elver fishery and local support for a close season concluded that the latter was open to serious practical objections. Requests for further research monies to provide the data necessary to support a close season introduction were unsuccessful.
- iii) Steps were not taken to implement catch returns because it became apparent that this would be achieved by the Water Bill. Our proposed byelaw 16 can therefore include the requirement for eel and elver catch returns.
- iv) A byelaw has been proposed this year to introduce an elver close season beginning mid May. Recent investigations indicate that both a local enquiry and compensation claims from elver fishermen are highly probable and costs would have to be borne by Fisheries Department. The Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Expenses) Regulations 1988 indicate that all costs relating to making of an order under Section 28 are also recoverable from the applicant.

4 Discussion

There is consensus on the need to conserve eel stocks in the Severn catchment; opinions differ only in the best way of achieving this aim. The fisheries department has limited financial and manpower resources and a decision must be taken on their most effective deployment in this issue. An elver close season would indeed allow greater escapement in some years but the Authority is uncertain whether a sufficiently good case can be made for its introduction. Significant expenditure could be wasted if the decision taken by the Minister or at local enquiry was not in the Authority's favour. The change in legislation enabling catch returns to be required together with a further research contract could however, improve significantly the Authority's chances of achieving a close season. In the meantime, stocking would be pursued on a more generous budget and other strategies, such as elver passes, could be considered more actively than in previous years.

5 Recommendation

The Committee is asked to consider recommending:-

- i) that the introduction of a close season for elvers be postponed pending preparation of a stronger case based on elver catch returns and a further two or three year research project.
- ii) That, in the interim, alternative strategies of elver stocking and investigation of elver passes be more actively pursued.

TABLE 1 Fishing licence sales for the calendar year 1988

<u>ROD & LINE</u>			
<u>Trout Freshwater Fish & Eels</u>			
	<u>DUTY</u>	<u>SALES</u>	<u>INCOME</u>
Annual *	4.50	185343	834043.50
Twenty eight day *	1.80	26682	48027.60
Annual (concessional) *	.90	62352	56116.80
Temporary block licences for 20 or more persons (per head)	.90	6388	5749.20
Temporary one site licence (per head)	1.00	829	829.00
 <u>Salmon</u>			
Annual	32.65	872	28470.80
One day/Annual (concessional)	6.55	681	4460.55
Twenty eight day	13.05	53	691.65
 <u>COMMERCIAL</u>			
<u>Salmon</u>			
Lave net (full season)	38.00	32	1216.00
Lave net (half season)	19.00	27	513.00
Draft net (severn area)	100.00	7	700.00
Draft net endorsees	.20	39	7.80
Putt	3.00	0	0.00
Putchers (per group of 50)#	25.00	95	2375.00
Leaders to putts & putchers not exceeding 90m in length	30.00	3	90.00
Leaders to putts & putchers exceeding 90m in length for each additional 20m	8.00	15	120.00
Stop net (boat)	60.00	0	.00
Draft, hang or seine net (Trent area)	11.00	0	.00
Stand, bow, click or topping net (Trent area)	2.00	0	.00
 <u>Eels & Elvers</u>			
Gloucester type eel wing net	6.00	9	54.00
Fyke or D net exceeding 4m in length or with wings or leaders of total length exceeding 10m	6.00	3	18.00
Fyke or D net from 2m to 4m in length with wings or leaders of total length 10m or less	4.00	90	360.00
Fyke or D net not exceeding 2m in length with wings or without wings or leaders per group of 5 or part thereof	3.00	33	99.00
Putcheons, wheels or baskets - per 20	6.00	13	78.00
Putcheons, wheels or baskets or each additional 20	5.00	0	.00
Weir Trap	16.00	1	16.00
Night or bank line for eels (downstream of Tewkesbury weir only)	2.00	0	.00
Elver Net	10.00	522	5220.00
Elver Net (concessional)	2.00	69	138.00
 TOTAL INCOME			 989393.90

*Includes fishing for salmon in Trent area. #Total number 4671

EXISTING BYELAW

PROPOSED

COMMENTS

d) Rainbow trout - rod and line

1) The annual close season for fishing for rainbow trout with rod and line in those waters of the Rivers Derwent and Amber, including their tributaries, which are above or upstream of their confluence at Ambergate, Derbyshire (Ordnance Survey grid reference SK 346 515) excluding the stretch of the River Wye from Blackwell Mill (SK 113 727) near Buxton to Cressbrook Mill (SK 173 727) above or upstream of Ashford-in-the-Water and excluding any reservoir or lake formed by the construction of a dam across the valley of those rivers, or across one of their tributaries, shall be the period between the fifteenth day of November and the sixteenth day of May following.

1) The annual close season for fishing for rainbow trout with rod and line in those waters of the Rivers Derwent and Amber, including their tributaries, which are above or upstream of their confluence at Ambergate, Derbyshire (Ordnance Survey grid reference SK 346 515) excluding the stretch of the River Wye from Blackwell Mill (SK 113 727) near Buxton to Cressbrook Mill (SK 173 727) above or upstream of Ashford-in-the-Water and excluding any reservoir or lake formed by the construction of a dam across the valley of those rivers, or across one of their tributaries, shall be a period from and including the sixteenth day of November to and including the fifteenth day of May following.

i) Change in wording describing the close season. As for 3(a)(i) above.

11) The annual close season for fishing for rainbow trout with rod and line in all other waters in the Water Authority area shall be dispensed with.

) No change.

e) Eels - rod and line
It shall be lawful to fish for eels with a rod and line during the annual close season for freshwater fish in the Water Authority area.

e) Add:
Provided that the hook used shall have a gape of not less than 12.7 mm (0.5 inches).

New byelaw 3(f).
The annual close season for fishing for eelers with an elver net shall be the period from and including 7 May to and including 31 December.

3f) In view of the concern previously expressed on elver catches and eel populations, it may be advisable to consider the introduction of a close season for elver fishing.
A Section 28(3) Order would be required

(NOTE: As the byelaws neither specify nor dispense with an annual close season for freshwater fish then the annual close season for such fish shall be the period between 14 March and 16 June as laid down in the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975).

4 The Taking of Immature Trout and Freshwater Fish

No person shall take within the Water Authority area any fish of sizes less than those prescribed hereunder for the species stated from the area stated. The size of the fish shall be ascertained by measuring the fish from the tip of the snout to the fork or cleft of the tail.

EXISTING BYELAW	PROPOSED	COMMENTS
<p>(NOTE: See also the Net Limitation Order given in the Appendix).</p> <p>10 <u>The Use of Nets and Other Instruments for Trout (Excluding Migratory Trout) Freshwater Fish and Eels (Including Evers)</u></p> <p>a) The kinds of nets and other instruments which (subject to the provisions of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975) may lawfully be used in taking trout (excluding migratory trout), freshwater fish and eels (including evers) within the Water Authority area shall be a rod and line and a landing net, gaff (consisting of a plain metal hook without a barb) or taller used as auxiliaries to angling with rod and line, weir or eel trap, putchson, a fixed net for taking eels, a wheel or basket for taking eels or lampers, a hand held net operated by one person for taking evers, and in such waters of the River Severn as are below or downstream of Tewkesbury weir, night lines or bank lines for taking eels.</p> <p>b) No person shall take trout (excluding migratory trout), freshwater fish or eels (including evers) by any means other than the nets or other instruments described in Byelaw 10(a).</p> <p>c) No person shall fish with more than two rods and lines for freshwater fish or eels at the same time.</p> <p>d) No person shall leave a rod and line with its bait or hook in the water unattended or out of sight or so that that person shall be unable at any time to take or exercise immediate physical control of or over the said rod and line.</p> <p>e) No person shall, except as provided in Byelaw No 11(a), use any form of line otherwise than in connection with a rod.</p> <p>f) No person shall take or attempt to take or kill any trout, freshwater fish or eels by any of the following methods, that is to say, by tickling or groping the fish or by removing the water from any river, lake or pond by laddling, baling, draining or pumping.</p> <p>g) No person shall trail or troll natural or artificial spinning baits from boats in motion on any river or stream but excluding lakes and reservoirs which may be located on any such river or stream.</p>	<p>will become Byelaw 11.</p> <p>The use of nets and other instruments (not fixed engines) which may be used for taking non-migratory trout, freshwater fish and eels</p> <p>a) It shall be lawful to use a rod and line and landing net or taller used as auxiliaries to angling with rod and line for taking non-migratory trout, freshwater fish or eels.</p> <p>b) It shall be lawful to use a hand held net operated by one person for taking evers. The following conditions shall apply to its use:-</p> <p>1 the person fishing must either be standing on the bank or standing in a stationary moored boat; taking evers from boats in motion is prohibited;</p> <p>2 the net frame shall be no greater than 1,000mm at its widest point and 1,250mm in overall length;</p> <p>3 a label issued by the Water Authority and bearing the licence number shall be attached to the handstaff or headboard.</p> <p>No change.</p>	<p>a) The use of gaffs is not permitted. See 5(a)(1) and 20.</p> <p>b) Eel and eiver fishing methods are restricted to those in current use which are considered appropriate to the exploitation of the species. Eiver netting is described for the reasons given for new Byelaws 5(a)(1) and 6. Byelaw (b)1 is intended to prohibit trawling for evers. Tawling will aid enforcement.</p>

KEVIN HUISH - RECORD'S OFFICER REPORT

I was hoping my first report of the year would be a lengthy one and really get the ball rolling as far as interest in the N.A.C. is concerned.

Apart from John Sidley's 6lb 2oz eel which was reported in Nick Rose's first Bulletin I have not received a single report of any eel catches. So my report is slightly misleading (or a complete waste of time and space in the magazine. However, eel fishing seems to be thriving in some parts of the Country with young Scott Doves superb 9lb 2oz and Paul Gustafson has taken a 6 lb, 5 lb and a 4 lb for good measure in a single night's session. Conditions have been good for eel fishing and the few sessions I have had have been very interesting, loads of runs but I keep on missing them. I shall write an article and wait for comments. Anyway here is the list:-

FEBRUARY 1989

John Sidley	6lb 2oz	Sandeel		D
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MARCH

No fish reported

APRIL

No fish reported

MAY

No fish reported

JUNE

A few eels were caught by myself

K. Huish	2lb 6oz	Sandeel	Welsh lake	N
	2lb 13oz	Sandeel	Welsh lake	N
	3lb 3oz	Dace head	Welsh Res.	Dawn
	3lb 9oz	Dace head	Welsh Res.	Dawn
	2lb 14oz	Roach head	Welsh Res.	Dawn
	2lb 5oz	Roach head	Welsh Res.	Dawn
	2lb 11oz	Roach head	Welsh Res.	Dawn
	2lb 15oz	Roach head	Welsh Res.	Dawn
	2lb 9oz	Roach head	Welsh Res.	Dawn
	2lb 12oz	Perch Tail	Welsh Res.	Dawn
	2lb 2oz	Perch Tail	Welsh Res.	Dawn
	2lb 2oz	Perch Tail	Welsh Res.	Dawn
	2lb 2oz	Perch Tail	Welsh Res.	Dawn
	2lb 2oz	Perch Tail	Welsh Res.	Dawn

JULY

K. Huish	2lb 10oz	Perch Tail	Welsh Res.	Dawn
	2lb 0oz	Perch Tail	Welsh Res.	Dawn
	2lb 4oz	Perch Tail	Welsh Res.	Dawn
	2lb 2oz	Perch Tail	Welsh Res.	Dawn
	2lb 10oz	Perch Tail	Welsh Res.	Dawn
	2lb 15oz	Perch Tail	Welsh Res.	Dawn

Sorry for such a brief report I hope the next one will be better.

Tight lines, TAFF

MY THOUGHTS ON BULLETIN VOL 26 No. 2

Dave Taylor

Thanks Nick & Yvette (Nick married to Jean, Jerry married to Yvette OK) for producing another good bulletin, it must be very hard work and it is very much appreciated. I thought it would be a good idea to go through the pages and make my comments, not that anyone gives a damn.

No. 1 Editors Page. I have heard of the Upton Warren results also.

it is worth pointing out that the majority of the eels were caught in the daylight including the 6 lb 13oz I have been fishing there myself and the fishing is excellent.

No. 2 Records Officer. I personally do not weigh eels unless they look 3lb+, but I must stress that is because of the quality of waters that I have been fishing. Any 3lb+ eels I will now report to Kevin and I hope the rest of you will let us know how you are getting on. Don't forget the pictures.

No 3. Iron Bridge Publications. We should now be Brian (Brian) washed about the books available (Three full page adds in one Bulletin). They are though, excellent books I have had the pleasure of reading Rainbows End and Fishing for Big Eels (I won them both in the raffle at the AGM's) they both make superb reading. I like the look of Tony Miles book so perhaps Brian can donate one of them at the next raffle. Thanks for the sponsorship Brian how about an article??

Is eel tackle strong enough. I, like John believe there are doubles to be caught and the tackle must be suitable. I think you must use the tackle to suit the swim. I also think that if a double figure is to be caught by an eel angler then by rights it should go to J.S. for the time and effort he has put in over the years.

Profile of Pete Stickland. Why the picture of a pike? Has Pete caught any eels

Article time again. What can I say. Jerry is right about the apathetic attitude of most of us, I'm afraid I am as much to blame leaving the politics of angling to people such as B. Crawford, J. Sidley and J. Parkin. Perhaps Jerry could expand on what is an active member, does he mean actively writing to water boards or actively fishing for eels. P.S. congrats on the baby. Love from Dave with the Alsatian.

Donald Knights Letter. This was as good as a lot of the article I have read. (Thanks Donald). Where were you at wit weekend?

Get In First. What a superb article, obviously carefully thought about , excellent content, amazing pictures, fantastic author. Best contentder for £50.00 tackle vouvher.

Short Letter from Nick Evans. I agree with Nick entirely if people want to pay their subs and not do anything else , let them, at least is income for the club. What the N.A.V. needs is a hard core of members to put the club back into the serious eel fishers frame.

Wire up for Eels. My only comment is in my tests wire traces did not effect the number of runs. this being the case, I use wire for peace of mind Knowing it does not affect the number of runs.

Genesis (How it all started) Very good article Tony but how someone as crap as you can catch a 4 is beyond me.

Thoughts from Per-Ola. I know nothing about hte growth rate of eels the only thing I can add to that is that I have caught large eels 4+ in young unconnected waters less than 20 years old.

A Different idea on Bait. Having fished with Tony on numerous occasions I have now found the reason why he never catches much. He is catching Daphnia on size 40 hooks to put in his semi permiable membrain sausage skins. Pete and myself have emptied the lakes befor Tony has cast out.

Bullshit for the Bulæetin. What an Artist.

Regards DAVE.

Views On Last Bulletin.

I received my N.A.C. Bulletin the other day, and what a surprise I had for once the bulletin held some very interesting topics by the members, could this be the start of something good or is just a flash in the pan. At this point I would like to say well done to our Nick and any other people who helped to get the Bulletin together, (Jean), keep up the good work. I like the pics Nick it makes a pleasant surprise to see some snakes. Regarding the B.E.A.C. fishin Nick, the eel weighed in at 6lb 13oz and not 6lb 14oz, there was also caught a 3lb 10oz, a 3lb 5oz and a 5lb taken by Mark Duffy all told over 25 eels were taken, other results from the B.E.A.C. members around the country before the season opened was a good few 4's and 2 other 6's, Kevin Richmond 6lb 12oz and Mark Ingle 6lb 14oz and along with my own 6lb 20z it aint a bad start.

Thanks for the kind words about my pics at home Nick, the offer to any anglers has always been there to come to my house, just check I aint away eeling, I tend to do a lot of that during the summer. I wish Kevin Huish all the best in getting the N.A.C. photo album off the ground, I will see if I can sort out some pics for Kevin but bare with me my picture and negative collection are in a mess at the moment, I need time to sit down for a few hours to sort them out, I'm sure Nick will bare me out with that statement. I liked the profile by Dave on Pete it made good reading and it gives us all chance to get to know each other and to see each others personal bests I look forward to reading about other members in due course. Nick those pics of Pete are not Hybrid eels but Pike. A strong letter by Jerry but I feel every word is true We must all pull together if not Jeery's statement about selling Golf Clubs instead of tackle maynot be far off the truth. I liked Donalds piece and its surpising how easy it is to sit down and write an article, I feel every member should give it a whirl, by the way dont be embarrassed about blanking Donald its all part of the eeling game I've read many a good piece about an angler blanking, why cant you write about the methods and bait you are using or thinking of using, lets all here about them maybe then we can all give them a try and save you a lot of ground work. Many a good method has been discovered by trying something new. The off bottom and surface rigs for example, so come on lads nobody is going to take the piss, get your pens to paper.

What a brill piece of Dave Taylor "Get in First" there was never a truer word spoken Dave, for I myself have found the first angler to hit any water will catch the bigger eels, after that the water just tails off like Dave said we have had many talks about why this happens. I strongly believe the eels do not die after capture I have proved this to be true many times by keeping deep hooked and lip hooked eels at home, I truly believe those eels can either tell each other there is danger about not just the baits being used but by telling each other that swims are taboo. If the pressure gets to great they do the next best thing and pack there bags and search for a new and safer home, I've seen the above happening on at least 3 waters, eels leaving the lake in great numbers mainly from the overflows of the lake. Maybe thats the reason Nicks eel was caught again near the outlet, it was on its way out. In all the years I've been eeling I can not say with any truth that I have ever taken an eel twice or seen an eel I have caught taken by another angler.

Sorry to hear that the waters you have had a look at Dave, you have been told I have fished them, Dont take what you have heard as gospel for I have fished some waters according to some anglers that I aint even seen yet all you have to do Dave is give me a ring and I'll tell you if I or any of the other lads have fished it, dont worry it will be between you and me I have enough on my plate with the three waters I've got.

Thanks for your blessing Nick on wishing me the best in hooking my 10lb er, I'll try my best you can bet on that like Dave said you have to fish the water you think or know they are, its no good sitting on a venue banging out loads of eels knowing the water will never produce the British of your personal best.

I am heart broken Nick (Evans), Sharron has turned me down, how can I live knowing I 'll never be able to tell her how my tool can give so much pleasure when it's sitting in my rod rests. The thrill of holding it in ones hands waiting to give it some stick when I get my next run . How can I tell my lob worm she does not want to play with it, God my reputation will be ruined, sob, sob, Sharron you broke my heart.

Ah Kevin hold on a bit, the J.S. eel rod has been selling like hot cakes so much so a lot of Carp lads have been buying them.

On the question of a big eel, since the 11lb 2oz has been caught a lot of anglers, and the press seem to look down on any eel under 4lbs, a great shame for I feel that any eel is worthy of capture regardless of its size, to me any eel over 2lb is one hell of a fish especially if your personal best is only 3lb+. Kevin I wish you well on the boilies, but quite a few of the lads have been through that stage, paste baits aswell. Unless these Carp anglers can show you the eels they catch I would take what they say with a pinch of salt, I fished with Richie MacDonald last season and he believes a lot of the so called eels are not the size they claim, a lot are not weighed, its just guess work. I believe what he says to be true, for I believe there would be more pictures shown of the monster snakes, for any angler worth his salt would not return these fish without a picture.

Anyway I've gone on long enough: got to get my gear ready for another stint I look forward to reading the next bulletin. I wish you all well and plenty of big eels to your rods. As there is nobody to write a profile on yours truly I'll just jot a few things down about me, I've been eeling since I was knee high to a grasshopper and been Piking since the winter of 1974 my personal bests stand at.

PIKE. 70 over 20lbs best at 28lbs 4oz

TENCH. 7 over 6lb best 7lb 14oz.

ROACH. best 11lb 14oz.

CARP. 3 over 20lb best 23lb.

ZANDER. best 8lbs.

PERCH. best 4lbs 15oz.

CHUBB. best 6lb 12oz.

BREAM. best 8lb 1oz.

TROUT. (Brown) 4lb 11oz.

SALMON. 17lbs.

WOMEN. 2 bests, the one I've got but theres still a chance for you Sharron.

EEL. 8lbs 3oz. One, two and three lb eels I have lost count of 4lb+ 149 with 35 over 5lb, 11 over 6lb and three over 7lb.

Tight Lines J.S.

LETTER TO THE FAMOUS FIVE CLUB
(OR THE N.A.C. - IT'S ONLY A JOKE LADS HONEST THAT'S THE TRUTH)

After reading through the last NAC bulletin, to drop through my letter box, the sound of : hitting the floor woke me up, I thought it was one of the wifes mags. at first, but seeing it was addressed to me I opened it up to find the N.A.C. bulletin volume 26 No. 2.

How shocked I was a thick mag. not like the last one to arrive, which was as thin as my wallet, (members fault that eh lads, no articles, no mag. simple maths). Anyway as this is my second year in the great N.A.C. I thought I should write in again, yes more from my type writer to grace the bulletin pages. As I looked back through a years N.A.C. mags I was counting up the articles by members, and broke them down into a league table, I won't bore you with the list only JS, was top, he must be able to write an article while he is on the toilet - can you John! As a mate of his I would say he could, or think of a few pages while setting up his gear before fishing, my active involvement with the Club came to 3 articles out of 4 mags not too bad but not brill. (better than some).

Not wanting to upset anyone, which is unusual for me, as my mates would say I would say I am the quiet type until annoyed then I get going with no holds barred. Jerry's article made sense as I only know a few members, my fault I suppose for living where I do, in Blackpool, now not knowing Jerry he is probably a decent bloke as are all N.A.C. lads, but what pissed me off is his 'Holier than thou' attitude listing Nick, John and of course himself as the only active members the Club. As someone who has been in the BEAC since it was formed, and wrote many articles gone on fish-ins and also to the Dinner do in Notts last year and RO for my area, I would say I take an active part in any Club that I am in, or is it that the Club has a Club within itself - something like on the lines of Enid Blyton's Famous Five a closed shop but for a few I hope not. I think it must have been a clever trick on Jerrys part to get some members writing in to wake up the sleeping dogs to give them a kick up the backside, if so it has worked as his foot reached from Cheltenham right to Blackpool, and I still can't sit down.

Donald Knight's article made good reading and he raised some good points, as someone who is not supposed to be any good at writing articles, it was a good article. I thought it was anyway - nice one Donald, keep it up. We may get listed in the Famous Five Club yet -only joking lads.

Now ending on a happy note its good to see that the N.A.C. isn't a sinking ship anymore and that we have pulled our socks up and it can at least get on the way it should as a great Club - as it used to be when the N.A.C. meant something, as it was when I was a lad. Then it was the Club to be in, if only I had been old enough in those days, I am old enough now so lets get it back to its former glory so that we can enjoy what past members enjoyed whilst in the N.A.C. something to be proud of and a Club with no passengers, even if it's only a letter to say hi - I've had a 3 or 4 or a 5, or a, as it will give our Editor Nick Rose something to do - correcting the spelling, as he will have to do - so if I can send something in again I am SURF YOU CAN. Nick won't mind correcting the spelling, as it's part of the fun of being Bulletin Editor.

I will close for now as I've gone on longer than I wanted - I will finish this letter by saying - tight lines to your rods and may you catch the eel of your dreams.

P.S. how much are the subs for the Famous Five Club - only joking, hope to see you all soon, next fish-in.

ONLY JOKING - KEITH

LETTER FROM MARK DAVIES

I returned home from 2 weeks holiday in France to find a Bulletin in my post which was a nice surprise.

Please accept my congratulations, its the best we've had for some time. It seems your efforts are at last bearing fruit.

My offer concerning the £50 tackle voucher still stands and I suggest that after a suitable run of Bulletins you decide who deserves it. Then contact me or Ernie Orme and we'll make the necessary arrangements. I forwarded those new bite alarms to Brian Crawford so that they can be raffled at the AGM - if for some reason I am not able to attend.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

MARK DAVIES

Over the many years I have been eeling, from rivers to canals and stillwaters I think I have tried every hook in the book for fishing, live, dead or any other form of fish baits for eels. Some of those hooks were okay others were very poor, others were that bad they are not worth mentioning. I could never really say to a fellow angler that such and such hook was the number one in fishing the above baits for big eels. Now I can say with my hand on my heart that the hooks I am now using are to me the perfect fish hook for eels, and the amount of big pike they have helped land which have nicked my bait at night go even further to prove how good these hooks are.

I was introduced to these hooks by the Managing Director - Alan Bramley of Partridge hooks in Redditch, that was over three seasons ago and the amount of eels they have helped me put onto the bank without any problems must now run into the 100's, with at least five fish over 5lbs and three sixes. Last season they helped me put my 27 eel haul in one night with snakes to a best of six pounds onto the bank, they also put my 6lb 02oz onto the bank in February of this year and now they have just helped me bank a 33 eel haul in one night the best going 4lb 0oz for a total weight of 86lbs 3oz along with nine pike with four into double figures, the best going 14lb 14oz, with all the above eel and pike captures to their credit I feel the hooks do speak for themselves.

The model of the hooks are Partridge Z1's, Jack Hiltons, they are black and made from high carbon Sheffield steel, the sizes I use are from 2,4,6 and 8 these seem to cover all the size of deadbaits or livebaits I use in my eeling, they hold their point for ever and the barb on the hook I found is not as large as other known hooks, thus helping you to set the hook home with ease, for the hole that you need to put into an eels mouth with other hooks caused by the size of the barb and the thickness of the wire is very large indeed and at long range fishing takes some setting. If you are not sure what I am trying to say just go out and check the distance between the barb and the back of your hook shank and see the size of hole you have to make before the hook is set.

On the Green where I have done quite a lot of my eeling these past seasons the bed of the lake is very much covered in thick layers of gravel, so one can guess the amount of abuse my hooks receive when either winding my rig back or even when casting out, yet with all that abuse they hold their sharpness and I have never yet had the point of these hooks damaged in any way that they will not be set in the eels mouth. Some hooks I've used the point has either bent over or even broke off. Never yet has one of the Z1's ever broken on me at its bend or barb when that hook goes home, I know that the fish hooked will be banked unless yours truly makes a cock up of it, all in all I cannot praise these hooks enough. They have been a God send in my eel fishing while using any type of fish baits, so I recommend you get down to your local tackle shop and get some of these Z1's coupled to your wire traces, for once set they land anything that swims.

There has, over the years, been a great interest in the worm hooks that I have been using - the Mustard 92641, with two slices on the shank, many members have proved how good these hooks are by landing many snakes on them, some members taking their personal bests. Sadly many anglers have had problems in getting these hooks again in sizes 2,4,6 and 8's. Well I'm happy to report that Alan Bramley and myself are now in the stages of developing such a hook, these hooks will be on the same lines as the 92641 but will, I hope, be made in black and of high carbon Sheffield steel. Keep an eye out for further details for they will be fully tested by myself, Gerry Rogers and Mick Bowles, till then like I said get down to your tackle shop and obtain some of the Partridge Z1's. Any problems just phone Alan Bramley at Partridge on 0527 41380 and he will be only too pleased to help you out.

I wish you all tight lines and a very bent rod and a landing net covered in eel slime but if you are already using the Partridge Z1's there will be no need for me to wish you the above, you are half way home with those hooks.

Cheers,

JOHN S (THE EEL FERRET).

Sat there the other day on my hard venue (that's the first time I have heard it called a hard venue John, presumably it was your mate Gerry's Ed.), the venue where the eels are very thin on the ground. I know when or if ever hooked they could well be over 5lb in weight. For the lake I was fishing has only ever produced three eels, one of 5½lb on rod and line and two well over seven pounds being found dead, those two big 7s I know to be true for I have seen the pictures of em, the 5½ I ain't too sure because an old chap fishing the lake told me his mate had taken it while perch fishing, method a float and lobworm bait, so was that eel really a big five? or just guess work?

Still sitting there looking at my quiet optonics for not a sound had come from them near on all day and night, I kept thinking to myself what have I got to do to get one of those big snakes to take my offering, thoughts of prebaiting like the old days at Earlswood Lakes went through my mind, from past experiences I knew it would be a waste of time prebaiting with anything other than chicken guts, or anything else I could find dead that had been run over on the roads. For prebaiting with dead fish, or anything that would attract other course fish into my swim would put the kiss of death on my chances of hooking into any big snakes, past experiences proved that point, for once a shoal of other course fish moved in on my prebait, on those stints I never hooked into an eel, yes I know ex-member Dave Holeman used to swear by prebaiting with 100's of chopped up lobworms and even maggots and I know Dave took a fantastic eel of 7lb 08oz off such a prebaited swim. There is always the exception to the rule, all I know is that when I prebaited with the above it brought in other course fish and in great numbers, it was not until I started to prebait with the chicken guts and the run over stuff that those swims only ever produced eels and no other course fish. I believe those big snakes are loners and won't tolerate the company of other course fish and move like Seb. Coe if there are any pike about. The use of eel section in pike fishing today proves that the eel is, I believe, one of the main food items of *Esox*, the above proved further to me with the amount of eels I have taken with pikes teeth marks across the body or around their heads. What do I have to do to hook one of those monster snakes that I know for sure are swimming around in my venues and not of just the venue mentioned above, for I believe we are all fishing venues where monster snakes live.

By now you have all read my views on what I believe those big eels feed on, swimming around the bottom of your venue sucking in mouthfull after mouthful of silt mud, blowing out through their gills what they cannot or do not want to eat and tucking away all those rich goodies in the form of water fleas, snails, bloodworms and some creepy crawlies I cannot put a name to, an easy life for a big old eel, all she does is grow fat and every year that passes she grows much wiser.

The reports I have read from Scientists not only in this country but from abroad show that most eels when killed, and their stomach contents are examined, very few if any have fish or even worm in the gut, it is always the above mentioned creepy crawlies, those reports alone go to prove even further how our chances are reduced even further of the baits we are fishing ever producing that eel we all dram about to our rods. Unless, as I have said before they drop that clanger and take your hook bait my mistake. I do believe those big eels do not single out your hook bait, that eel does not come along see your worm or fish and say to itself I'm having that, that eel is only feeding in the area where your hook bait is and takes it as she feeds through the silt mud. For most of the runs I have had when I have hooked into one of these say six plus eels, have not given me a run that we all come to expect from an eel, the run if you could call it that has often been mistaken for a line bite or from a cautious tench or bream, no I believe that the eel has been feeding around you hook bait and her act of sucking in the silt mud has brought you hook bait closer to her, you will either score as she sucks the hook into her mouth or the run wont develop if she swims past the bait.

Well its time to give it neck, another long stint is over and those lake eels have once again beat me, my gear loaded onto my bike I take a last look across the lake and just ponder on where those big eels are hiding. I wonder how many big eels my eyes have looked upon as I span the open water, are they just lying there on the lake bed looking back at me, saying piss off Sidley we can have some grub then, somewhere there has got to be an answer. There is more to these big eel captures than just rod hours on the right water and that little bit of luck, they are truly masters of their under water world. I suppose that is what makes big eeling so interesting and exciting, the not knowing, if it was that easy I suppose none of us would bother, maybe its best that the feeding habits of those monster snakes is never found out, I applaud you Anguillia Anguillia you are truly great.

NEW WATER "89"

I arrived at the water at about 7pm, this unusually early for me but I had a ticket and was fishing leagally. The water I had decided to fish is a resevoir/Canal feeder close to my home. The water was a new one to me so I firstly had a wounder round with a plumbing rig set up. The depth varied from about 2ft to 60ft by the outlet. I decided to fish the shallows at the top end, I selected my swim and lugged my tackle down the steep and difficult bank. Once set up i gave my dog his dinner and we sat down to await the action.

The day had been very hot and becomming humid. In my opinion these are the ideal eel fishing conditions. I was going to fish with three rods, the one to my left in th margins, the middle one punched out to a channel about 30ft and about 6ft deep, the rod on the right fished on the slope from 3ft to 10ft at about 30yards.

At 9.30pm I had my first run on worm fished in the channel at 9.31pm I had my first eel from the water all 6oz of it. This put a damper on my confidence but I rebated and cast out to the same spot. No sooner had the tackle hit the water it was off again. I immediially thought I had another lace. I struck and realized that this was somewhat bigger. After the usual tug of war battle I had the eel safly in the net, and up the bank for un hooking. I slipped the hook out and put her on the scales. She only went 3½lbs I was quite surprised as I was convinced I'd caught a 4, then the first fish of the season always look bigger dont they.

I slipped the fish back into the weater, recast and then with my confidence renewed sat back to await the next run. I did not have to wait long, the dead bait in the margins decided to make a run for the opposite bank at a blistering pase, unfortunately I mist and concluded it must have been a boot lace.

All then went quite apart from my dog chasing the rats until mid night when I had another run in the channel. Once again the rod bucked satisfyingly as another good eel was dragged unceremoniously to wards the awaiting net I saw it in the net and thought it would be smaller than the previous one. It went on the scales at 3½lb it was ashort fat fish with a big Gob and teeth like a tiger.

There was no more action and I decided to pack up at 5am. to go home and grab some sleep before going to work. With 2 3" s I can not grumble as it was the first session on the water, and hopefully I might pick up something decent as the season progresses.

Dave Taylor.

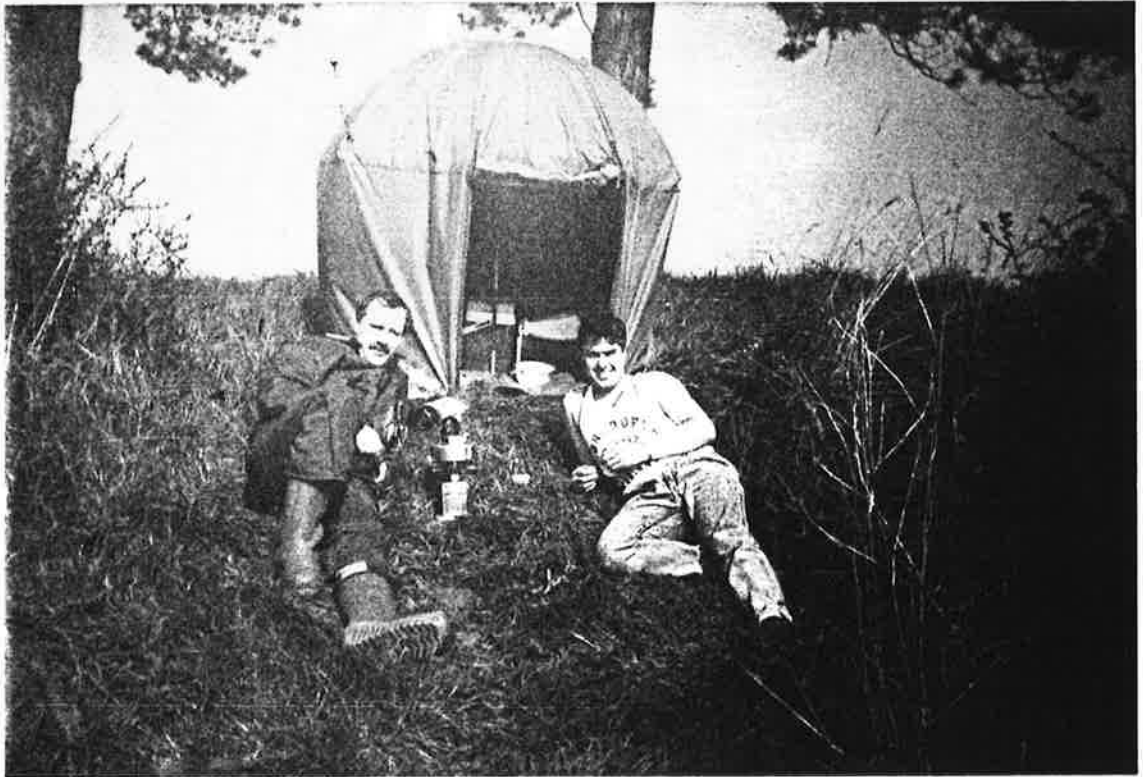


DAVE WITH 1 1/2 lb EEL

HE LOOK'S SO GLUM BECAUSE HE HAS JUST
WON THE CUP FOR BIGGEST EEL ON CLUB
TRIP 1989. NEVER MIND DAVE 1 1/2 IS
BIG (FOR A ROACH)



MORE PIC'S FROM
CLUB TRIP 1989.
KEVIN TRYING
TO STRETCH
ANOTHER EEL.



THE FAMOUS BREAKFAST SCENE OUTSIDE
KEVIN'S HOME

EEL RUNS - A PROBLEM? - K. HUISH

This season I made a promise to myself to do more eel fishing than chase after a series of different species. Now I never really considered in depth the problem of missed runs. The last two seasons I put in about 20 to 30 sessions after eels. Runs were very limited and switching venues didn't help.

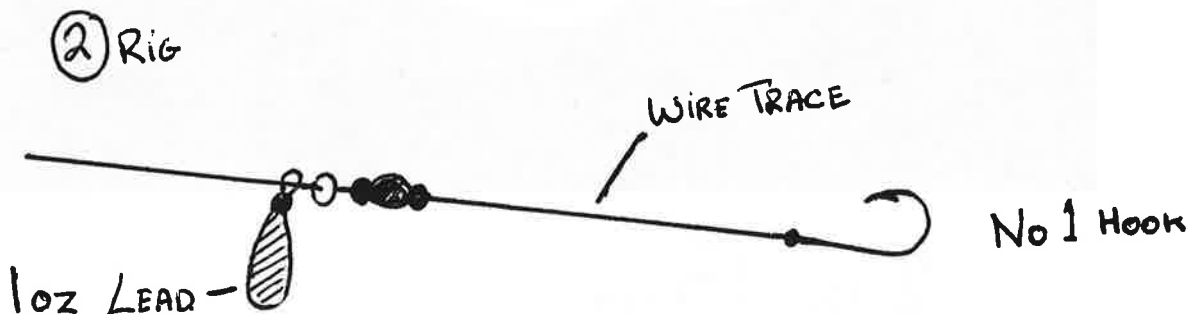
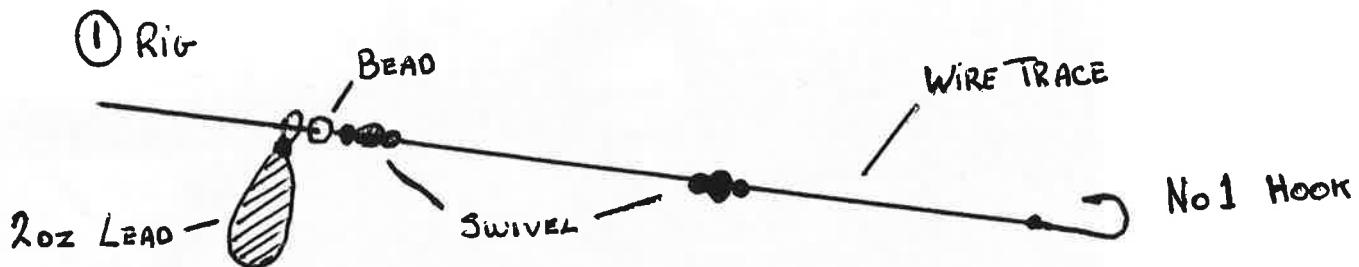
This year I decided to stay with one venue and instead of trying strange and EXOTIC baits I stuck with the traditional baits. That is where I encountered the first problem. No worms. I like to collect my worms on damp or light rainy nights, but with no rain this year yet the worms are deep underground. Please don't suggest looking at sports playing surfaces because they are regularly treated with worm killer (at least in my area they are). That left me with dead baits. These I caught fresh, if possible, but I still had a number of frozen ones to use till I caught a supply.

The main species I have been using are perch and these were cut in half or into three sections. Head, middle, and tail. To be honest I have yet to catch a fish on the middle section so I tend to use it as groundbait.

Now the water I am fishing does not normally respond to deadbaits so you can imagine my surprise when just five minutes into my first dawn session the optonic burst into life and a quick strike.

I was soon into a nice wriggler at 2lb 15oz. I was well chuffed. This continued right through the session and was totally exhausted after landing 2 three pounders and six two pounders but I still missed eight runs. The second session was a complete disaster, run after run was missed despite swopping between heads and tails. This has now continued right up to my fourteenth session. I am hitting a few bites but its more like a 4 - 1 ratio of missed runs to hooking eels. After reading the first few paragraphs you are thinking this Taffy's a right jerk. You're right that's what I think at this moment. However, if anyone out there could help and point out something I am doing wrong then my pleas won't be a waste.

First my rigs:



KEVIN HUIISH



2lb 14oz



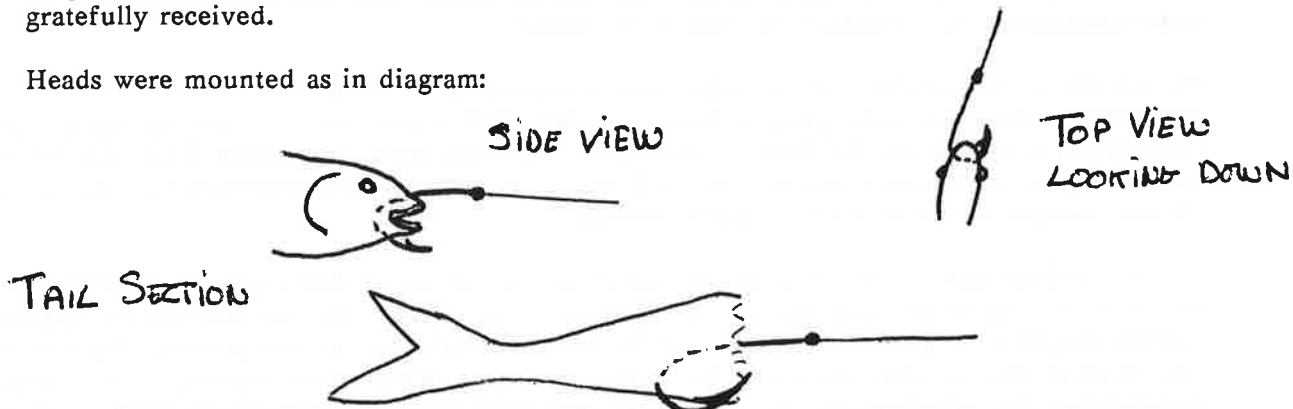
2lb 15oz

The first is almost like the J.S. Rig but the lead weight on the line since the bottom is quite firm the line is not restricted when the eel is taking the bait (that is what I am hoping).

The rig in fig.2 is just to vary and see the eels reaction (if any) to a shorter hook trace and smaller weight. Both rigs have produced a hell of a lot of runs and the inevitable missed run.

So perhaps the fault is where I am hooking the deadbaits again comments would be well and gratefully received.

Heads were mounted as in diagram:



Both were hooked in this way hoping to get the hook in the eels mouth but this is only sometimes succeeding. Perhaps I should wait till the second run but then I will be running the risk of deep hooking the eels which I don't want to start doing. Replies on a postcard please.

Also I end by repeating my plea for photographs for the Group Album.

Tight lines,

TAFF.



316 9oz

IN THE LIGHT

I thought I would write this short piece as a follow on to my last article. In it I mentioned that it is safe to fish most eel waters without permission. Here is an exception to the rule.

At about 8.15 p.m. I picked Tony Gilbert up from his house. At 8.30 we started the journey to a new eel venue (Tony spent 15 minutes saying goodbye to his fiancée). The water is a gravel pit of about 10 acres. We had not fished it before for eels but I had had some spectacular pike results at the end of the season.

We arrived at the bankside at dusk and I drove around to the far corner of the pit about 100 yards from where we were going to fish. At about 9.30 I had two rods cast out when Tony said "theres a car on the far bank." I turned my optics down and joined Tony behind the tree trying to see the vehicle opposite. All was quiet and the person/persons had got out of the car because we could hear the doors closing.

All of a sudden one of Tony's drop offs burst into sound (about 200 decibels!) notifying him of a run and the people opposite of our presence. Tony missed the run and the car opposite started up again. It made its way around the lake to where my car was parked. By now we had realised that it was not a car but some sort of 4 wheel drive vehicle. The vehicle stopped and the occupants got out. We could hear them but they were out of sight. I nearly died when the occupant of the vehicle turned on a massive searchlight and started scanning the bankside. I felt like someone trying to escape from Colditz, the beam illuminating all the vegetation around us.

Tony and I thought we had better go and see what was going on as they were obviously aware of our presence. We approached the vehicle with caution and we were blinded as the beam was pointed straight at us. As soon as I saw the people in the motor I realised it was the owner.

Even with my pleas of ignorance we were told to leave and Tony was banned from fishing any more of the waters that he usually buys a ticket for all owned by the same person.

Needless to say we packed up and went on to another water nearby where we blanked. No eels but what an eventful night. The strangest thing was why was the owner there in the first place. The pit is in the middle of nowhere so nobody could have seen us. It was at this point that we put two and two together.

The water had produced a few doubles and a low 20. Then when I fished it at the end of the season I had some fantastic sessions. Talking multiple catches of 20's and a 30 (32 lb to be exact), a friend of mine also had a different 30. Had these fish been moved in at considerable cost to the owner they certainly make the water worth protecting.

DAVE TAYLOR.

J.S. AT IT AGAIN



BEST EEL 4lb 0oz

7 EELS 11lb +

16 EELS 21lb +

9 EELS 31lb +

33 EELS FOR 86lb 13oz

PLUS 9 PIKE. 4 DOUBLES BEST 14lb 14oz

