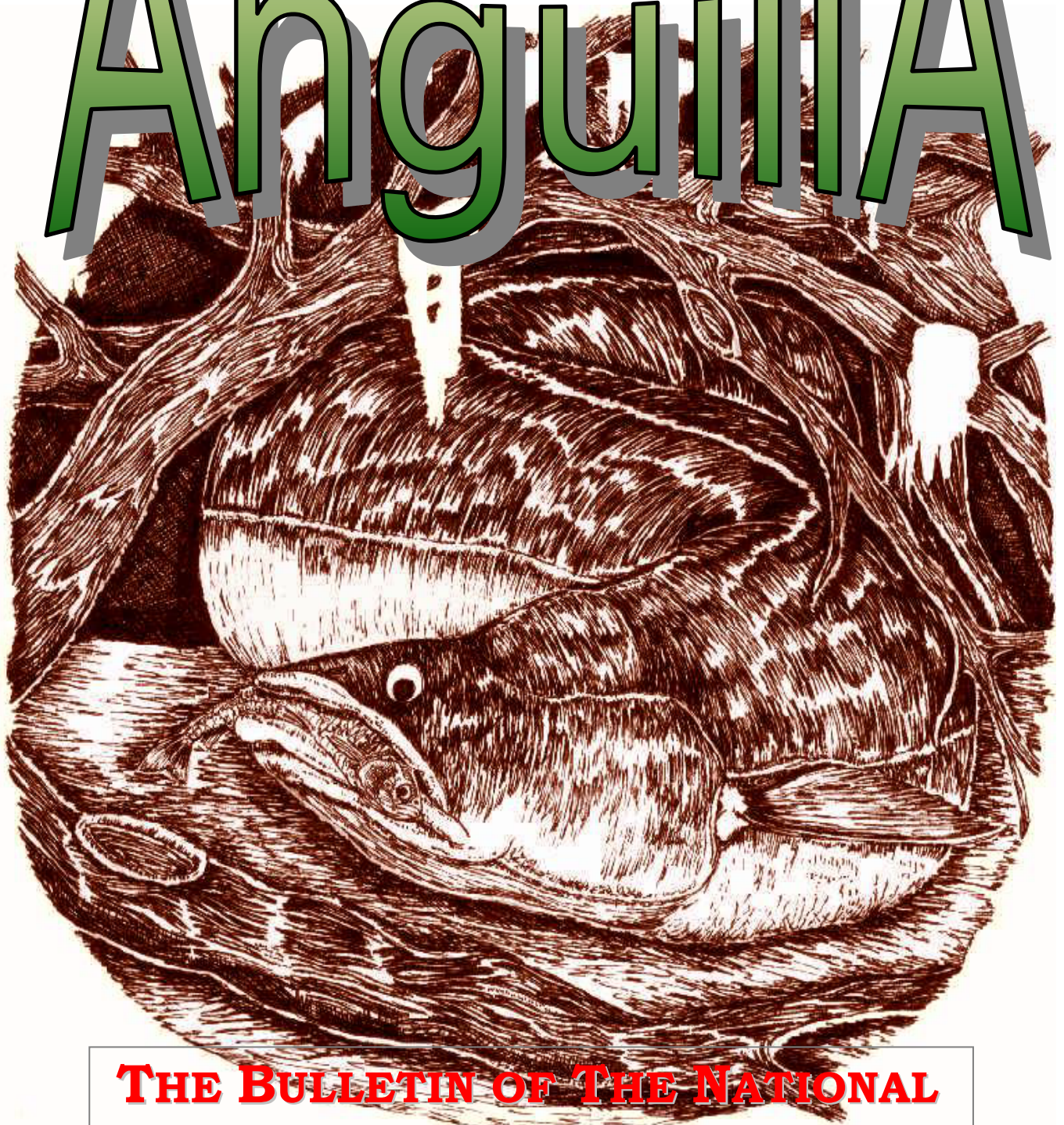


Anguilla



**THE BULLETIN OF THE NATIONAL
ANGUILLA CLUB.
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SPRING / SUMMER.**



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Front Cover.....	The late Ernie Orme.
Inside Cover Cartoon of "Eric the Eel".....	courtesy of Jason Morgan.



A TRIBUTE TO ERNIE W. ORME

Died 14th May 2001.

I knew Ernie as a personal friend since first meeting him on a National Anguilla Club summer trip in August 1969.

He joined the Club in October 1968 and in 1974 became Treasurer for two years followed by another two-year spell as Treasurer in 1978 and 1979. He briefly left the Club in 1976 but rejoined the following year. He finally left the Club in 1990, after 20 years membership

To all his friends he was known as “Ernie Worm” abbreviated from his name as above. He had a great sense of humour and nothing was too much trouble for fellow members. He organised several Club trips to Lake Bala in North Wales. I have many great memories of several of these. He was always there to ensure a supply of livebaits or beer. On one occasion he was one of a small group of members who managed to get themselves snowed in at Bala! On the first Club trip there, we had so much rain during the week that the level of the lake rose by two feet – considering Bala is 4 miles long by a mile wide – that was some rain! That trip was featured on a double page spread in Angling Times.

On his first trip with the Club, and mine, to Castle Howard lake in Yorkshire, In August 1969, there was about 20 of us there for the week. Ernie could only manage a couple of days mid week and all he brought, as bait were smoked herrings. His catch was two pike over 20Lb!

On the Whit trip to Barton Broads, North Lincolnshire, a couple of years later, he made his swim like the Hilton with a carpet and armchair he scrounged from a local dump.

He fished the Shropshire meres for many years, particularly one called Blakemere where he had 40 consecutive blanks, then had a 4Lb+ eel.

During the 1970’s he and Dave Smith (ex-Bulletin Editor) used to hire a cruiser on the Norfolk Broads every summer and spend the week fishing different areas for eels. He entertained many a Club meeting with the escapades he and Dave experienced from these visits.

During his working life he was a foreman docker on Runcorn Docks and after he took early retirement from his employment, opened up a good fishing tackle shop in Runcorn. While he had his tackle shop, the raffles at club meetings were well supplied from his shop.

Eventually he retired for good and had a cottage on the Vrwny at Meiford in North Wales, where he enjoyed some excellent chub fishing which he of course shared with any club member who wished to join him and indeed several made annual visits to stay with him, including Terry Jefferson, Mark Davies and Arthur Sutton.

He always tried to attend every Club meeting and most Club trips. I can still picture his infectious cheery smile and hear his scouse Runcorn accent. I remember telling him at an AGM of the Club at the Kings Hotel in Melton Mowbray in 1971, that as long as the club had members like him at its core it would last forever.

Well it’s a few years since he left the Club but he gave a great deal to the Club in his 20 years and many of its members were better for it. Now he has gone off to fish in the greater waters beyond with several other ex-members of the Club who he knew so well, but have also died – Nigel Jeyes and Arthur Smith in particular. I would wish for no better after-life than to join these when my time comes.

Put some bait in for me Ernie.

Brian Crawford

TEAM TALK

By
Jimmy Jolley

Well it had to happen sooner or later, that I would be asked to do a team talk for “Anguilla”, and this is it, so I’ll try to keep it “short and sweet”.

Firstly, I would like to thank Steve, Stuart and Damian for giving me this opportunity to talk to you all and for their encouragement and camaraderie within the production team and the unselfish dedication they have shown over my time on “The Team”.

The last year has seen some important changes in the club, none more so than Kevin Huish’s decision to stand down as our Chairman at the AGM held on the 18th March 2001. (He actually mentioned it at the Winter Social meeting in November last year. It was very sad to see such a stalwart member of the club and committee, leave the position as Chairman through ill health. Kevin has not been a well man for some time now, as some of the membership know, having had many health problems over the past couple of years. I hope I can speak for ALL the membership of the NAC when I wish Kevin good health in the future and I hope he will return to the committee when his health improves.

Over the last year the committee, but mainly Steve Richardson, Kevin Huish, Stuart Dean and Brian Crawford have been putting together a new Constitution for the future benefit of the National Anguilla Club and it’s members. I can tell you all now that this task has been anything BUT an easy undertaking. It has taken many hours on the telephone and e-mails, writing and re-writing it all just to get out this very important draft document to every member before the AGM earlier this year. This document was voted on and passed (with a few amendments) by all those members in attendance. This document is probably the most important club document that has been introduced since my time on the committee on the National Anguilla Club. I suggest that every member should read the Constitution and Rules very carefully, as there are some major changes to how the club will function in the future. One of the changes that is of most importance to myself as Records Officer, is the introduction of the rule that everyone must fill in and return a catch report at the end of the year (October 1st).

Now this is no big deal in my eyes, but the next part is very important. If you fail to send in a catch return, whether you have caught or not, you may NOT be considered for membership the following year. You have been warned. Get your catch return filled in and sent as quickly as possible after October 1st.

I think this was “short and sweet”, so until next time I hope every member has a long and successful season. Remember that we always need articles, photo’s and reviews for inclusion within the pages of “Anguilla”, so if you have a good session. Personal best, or a complete disaster, then please write something for YOUR magazine.

Tight lines and good snigging to you all.

Well folks, I wasn’t supposed to be writing the Team Talk this time but this little bit serves two purposes. One is to pad things out and the second is to have a bit of a moan. You will notice that the font is slightly larger than in the previous issues, a sign that we are short of content for this issue. I said in the last issue that I wouldn’t put any articles written by me in “Anguilla” unless we were desperate for content. As you can see I have two articles included in this issue of the magazine which will give you some idea of how desperate we are for the membership (that’s you lot out there) to write something. To put it bluntly if we don’t have some articles sent to us in the next couple of months there will not be a Winter /Christmas edition of “Anguilla”. It seems that we have to rely on the usual regular contributors to be able to produce this magazine, but sooner or later this well will run dry (if it hasn’t already). It is good to see that we have a couple of new members who have put pen to paper, namely George Walton and Christopher Greenbank and I for one am extremely thankful for their efforts. Well done to you both. Now Chris is only 13 years old and I am sure that if a junior can put pen to paper and contribute I’m damn sure that there are a lot of senior members, far more experienced in the ways of eel anglers and eel angling who are capable of putting pen to paper and giving a little something back to the club. This is your magazine and it can’t be written by the same old faces time after time. Eventually they will run out of things to say and write. The ball is firmly in your court, so what are YOU going to do about it?

Stuart (Spac-e-man) Dean.

IMPRESSIONS AND COMMENTS.

by
Steve Richardson.

The autumn / winter 'ANGUILLA' was a good read and made me think about things and to ultimately to write this observation of the articles that were published within the winter issue of 'ANGUILLA'.

Strange isn't it, just where 'direction' comes from. In times past, this would be a Bulletin review but not now. It is obvious to me that the Bulletin is a catalyst for new thoughts, ideas and hopefully constructive viewpoints on some issues raised within its pages. Its aim should be to prompt a written reaction from the membership on some of the items and to expand the dialog on others.

Here are mine. I make no apology for going against some members' thoughts or the praise heaped upon other members written work. Please remember this, I couldn't have come up with any of this without the viewpoints of the contributors in the first place. (Well, that is a shade wrong because some of the scenario's have been discussed whilst on sessions with anglers, sitting in mine or their front rooms, on the phone or inter-net or just conversational passages of time on the way to meetings on behalf of the club.)

So here goes.....

In Stuart's 'Team-Talk' he states that he will not contribute by writing any articles. This is wrong for him, the club and the Bulletin. He should get back to writing as soon as possible. Hopefully, he has something in this issue following our conversations on the phone about this subject. Stuart has many thoughts and theories that he should share with us all, I also see no sensible reason for him limiting the Bulletin's content standard because he feels that others may think he is projecting himself via being Editor of the Bulletin. I am sure that no one thinks this and would welcome him writing once again.

Dominic's letter has some interesting parts to it. I believe that he is, in essence, right about 'specific patrol routes'. I would say though that Steve Ormrod is also on the right lines as well. How can this be?

I firmly believe that there are some areas of a lake that do have better options for catching eels from than other areas. John Sidley wrote that on certain lakes that one bank might produce more action than the rest. I have also found this to be true on two lakes that I really got to grips with. Strangely, the bank you fancy isn't always the obvious one. Most lakes have a deep margin bank. This usually drops off straight away and then shelves up to a shallower bar, plateaux or island. This bank always has options for food sources. Either crustaceans like snails, shrimps and beetle life, or small shoal fish. There is also the probability of smaller eels if the bank is natural and under-cut. I am sure that large eels eat small eels but this is something that not many of us really think about when targeting a water. (I would never kill eels to use as sections for bait, however I would consider using it if one died on me or if I found a fresh corpse. Buying it is not an option, as it encourages the netter's and bait supplier's trade. This is my own personal stance and one that others do not agree with, but it is their right to decide upon their own moral code.)

Anyway, some eels do have patrol routes I'm sure, but likewise I believe that many do not and that they roam about in search of food items, probably haphazardly from weedbed to weedbed and from one type of underwater feature to another. Maybe, just maybe, this is the dividing line / seperational area from the true predatory types that target live fish as bait and the type that forage and feed on whatever they come across, be it a livebait, bunch of lobworms, boilies or sectional deadbaits. Who knows.....if you think you have ideas about this then write in and put it in the debating arena.

One point that Dominic states that I think needs a different viewpoint is this... in the colder weather the warmer water isn't at the top or the bottom, it is usually in mid-water until the wind blows hard and mixes the two together. The 'Thermocline' scenario occurs both in summer and winter. When I used to fish for pike in lakes in the winter, sometimes the only place to produce runs

would be somewhere between the top layers and the bottom in certain weather conditions. Free roaming lives would sort out the depth areas and then deadbaits presented on fixed paternosters would also score with the pike. Baits on the bottom would remain un-touched until the conditions changed. Either way, most shoal fish in winter are at some depth between the bottom and the top. Try fishing for baitfish on the bottom in winter and then switch to a bait fished on the drop, you will find that this will produce more fish in the end. If it works for pike then why not for eels? When fishing for coldwater eels, this doesn't just mean from October to February. March and April can be colder than most of the true winter months and September can also be a frost zone. (Steve Pitts would be a good person to comment on where the best options are with regard to bait presentation in winter, unless he only fishes on the bottom during the winter months?)

My best advice on the clever eels in Dominic's water....take their glasses off so that they cannot see your hooking arrangement. Seriously, 'Spike' has thoughts on this as well as 'The Space-man' and myself, so I'll leave it to them to comment. I would say that there is no defined answer to this other than small baits give a better hooking percentage. 'Spike' hits this on the nail in his article 'Rigs and things'.

Lastly, I am sure that eels can change colour to suit their surrounding areas. I have commented on it in past articles and know other have seen it occur. Camouflage has to be a necessity with all types of predators.

Andy Atkins piece is just how I remember my early year's eel fishing, without the over protective Mother. I am sure that with time and more confidence, his eel fishing will become more productive. We have all been where Andy is now and trust us Andy, the good times are only just around the corner. Stick with it and continue to enjoy it. I really enjoyed reading your contribution Andy.... thanks.

Great to read about the fish-ins, especially as I had decided not attend any last year. It was good to read about them in the order they took place as well and most were enviously missed after the accounts were read. Well done to 'Sad' and 'AutoRoute' for organising them for the membership.

B.T's Elvington revisited was somewhat two sided. However, it is good to see that Briony is keen on fishing.... We'll see if she still volunteers to spend the night in a tent with her Dad in a couple of year's time, when make-up, fashion and boys come into her life....as well as trying to get a word in edgeways when he gets in full cry. I hope she does.

Interestingly, the statement "We returned the eels and left as though we hadn't even been there" does stand some thought. I wonder if the owner will report finding a few dead eels after this year's fish-ins on the venue, just as he did last year. If he does, then it will have been obvious that 'they' had been there after all. I suspect that this is something that happens more often than not, without our knowing. I have had eels die on me, others have too. I have also been told by fishery owners or by other anglers that, after some eels have been caught and returned, the odd one or two have turned up dead on the fishery. This cannot be a coincidence surely. (There is an article in my head over this issue... and in other members heads too, this could become the next big debate within the club Bulletin, if these thoughts are aired....I intend to write one for the winter 2001 issue.)

'English Rose' has shown us that Tony has finished his apprenticeship and is now allowed to catch big eels, I don't think.

Someone fishing a canal, lake or ressie for the first time can catch a big eel. Implying that you fished other waters to learn how to handle eels thus getting yourself ready for when the big ones came along or when you decided to fish for the bigger ones, is poppycock. There can be no definable way of avoiding a big eel, other than do not fish at all. Sod's law will dictate that some anglers new to eel fishing will catch a very large eel in their first season and then struggle like the rest of us in the seasons after. How can canals be limited to 'big areas' and 'apprentice areas'.... They are one long fishery. Eels can swim and, as such, can be anywhere, at any time. I am sorry but if this were Carp fishing and you wanted doubles before twenties and thirties then yes, I can understand fishing waters with no twenties and thirties in them before moving onto waters that held them. This is eel fishing and I hope that those amongst us, who have had one huge eel early on, don't feel like they are not quite 'worthy' as yet. Likewise, I hope that those who haven't caught a

big (5lb+) eel yet don't see it as they haven't done the 'spade work' up to now. We are all the same, it is our water choice, hard graft and some luck that brings about what we catch. I firmly believe that Phil would have caught those eels if he had taken charge of those rods, and Tony his.

I too have had these 'feelings' and I'm sure that others have done so as well. I have never had 'that feeling' twelve months later..... Not without hindsight and a right proper result to relate it to.

I am not sure as to how it reads to Jimmy and Damian but the idea that they fished the 'big eel' area the year before, without any apprenticeships, shows that there is no apprenticeship in eel fishing. (Damian did four years 'spade work' for no eels before he took his 4lb'er and so this is some kind of 'apprenticeship'.....a bloody long blank. Fair play to him sticking with it for so long. He has though, been repaid big style since.)

Well done on catching your first 'five' Tony and by having the best season of you're eeling career to date, there were some lovely eels in your sessions. I am as pleased as punch for you as you did many eel sessions and grafted hard before the hits. Here's to next year and the same success.

Graham 'The Jockey' Wilkes has it sussed. This article could have been written in a different vein and then his assessment of how his year went would have been completely opposite to that which came through. I enjoyed this article very much and look forward to more from Graham. Nice to see Emberton produced a decent eel for him as well, even more interesting was the time he caught it. (Which lake was it from Graham?)

It has been said to me that I held back a shade on my comments over the winter social meeting. This is quite true and was done for a reason. I didn't want to put anyone off future meetings but at the same time I wanted others to know that someone has put in a lot of time to organise these meetings. However, I should like to make an apology to Brian Crawford over some thing that I said in the review. I stated that he won the junior raffle and that I won the senior raffle. This is in fact wrong, as Brian won the senior raffle. I am sorry for the mis-leading information and hope that Brian can accept my mistake as rectified.

Yet another super article from 'only the lonely'. The man is definitely up there at the top of the tree. I was truly in awe of his attitude when others, myself included, would have wobbled off to pastures new. A brilliant read. (One correction I believe, the tennis ball was in fact a table tennis ball...is that right?)

Steve Ricketts' was another 'hard season' story and he is no stranger to hard seasons, but he should have stated the size of his 'large pike'. An understatement or what Steve? Glad to hear the wife is better now, as well. I shall be watching the catch reports column in the coming year mate.

The photos in the catch return reports were a nice touch. I particularly like the idea of a photo gallery but please send in some photos for them to use. This will stop them using photos from the articles and those individuals becoming over exposed or appearing favoured. (Which I know wasn't intended or desired, OK.)

Bob Hornegold and his mate Gary found out about patience in eel fishing. What a seriously brilliant result though. I would, however, be using rods with a minimum of 2.75tc or more, coupled with 15lb line at least, if things do appear to be getting bigger!!!!!! (The lucky so and so's.)

Wishin' I was fishing.....never!!! (Good to see that someone? has the Spac-e-man sussed out....They couldn't have been writing about anyone else, could they?)

I hope that all the regional areas have the three witnesses for an eel capture over 5lb's included in them by the next issue of 'ANGUILLA'. This is the regional contact's job to sort out and, if they haven't sorted the named witnesses out in their region as yet, then they should consider it their number one priority. However, we do need a volunteer to become the regional officer for the Southern region to effectively make all the regions complete. I also saw that we have excluded Scotland from the map, not intentionally I should point out, but there is a member in that region so we should add this to the next map drawing I think. I offered my name formally to my last Regional Officer as one of the witnesses for the Midland region...I'm sure that it was taken seriously. It would be nice to see it in the respective portion.

'Rigs and Things' is thought provoking and considering that it comes from 'Spike's' keyboard, that doesn't surprise me at all. His thoughts on how our livebaits act under fishing conditions are quite interesting. I am pleased that someone has decided to challenge this 'if it isn't

6” then it won’t produce any eels’ syndrome. How can a predatory fish like an eel suddenly decide to only eat food items of a certain size? Don’t tell me that pike do it, because in most cases this occurs due to pressure or pre-occupation.

Pressure by capture repeats far greater than any eel repeat captures.

Pre-occupation by easily targeted food sources like fry shoals.

Everything ‘Spike’ says is quite acceptable on the livebait scenario and I would not argue much with any of it. This is not just because we are friends because we argue like cat and dog on quite a few issues. I’ll say this though, even if I did want to debate some aspects, I would wait until we were sharing a session before tweaking our thoughts into one similar viewpoint. It’s more enjoyable that way because even though his article should make several members write in and debate the points, in my experience they won’t. The only ones who may comment or write in, will be Jimmy, Stuart, Damian and quite probably ‘B.T.’....This is a shame, because no one alone knows the full answers but, by all of us contributing, we may end up better informed as a group. Surely this is what it is all about.

Regarding his points about eel deaths..... There are three questions asked along with some strong thought provoking details.

1. How many die after capture?.....I would say lots.
2. How many die in deeper water?.....I would say probably a few more.
3. How many with hooks left in survive?.....I would say less than we would like.

Serious answers to what I think are very serious questions and because I know that ‘Spike’ and myself believe that these questions should be debated in the club Bulletin. The only addition to the word ‘stress’ that I would add is ‘TRAUMA’.

‘Stress’ is the biggest killer of our livebaits (Bad hooking arrangements excluded!) so why does it not stand that ‘stress’ / ‘trauma’ maybe the biggest killer of our captured eels. (Enough controversy Nick mate?)

I shall have to ask Pete how to work out the eel weight that was asked for by Mr. McDonald. All this graph stuff is too complicated for me. However, it should prove interesting and useful in the future, especially if others send in details of their captures to Pete....thanks for taking the time to get the stuff sorted out h Pete.

The ‘Top 50’ eels list should look different after the next AGM, where any changes made to fish already placed on the list are altered or added to. Hopefully, we shall have a list that we can all look to try and gain a place on after the AGM.

The 3lb+ eel list read very strange. Worms accounted for 25 eels, Livebaits accounted for 19 eels, Fish sections accounted for 17 eels and Venison Stick accounted for 2 eels. Out of 65 eels over 3lb+ there were two with no bait attached. (Paul Smith’s 5lb 3oz eel was taken on deadbait so I added that to fish section baits. Steve Pitts and Nick Rose had an eel each with no bait stated.) Once upon a couple of seasons ago, livebaits would have been very low but quite obviously the membership are starting to use them big style. Worms are still tops for producing the most and this is a bait I hardly ever use now. Time for a re-think I believe. (I shall not be trying to acquire Venison Sticks to use as bait, I feel that both these eels could and probably would have fallen to Pepparami or something similar had these been used. They appear to be quaint extras and should not be taken too seriously.

Outside of the sea fish bait scenario in winter, I am sure that I wouldn’t attempt to use daft baits to secure a big eel unless I was using twenty rods....and then they would still be evenly split between the big four. This year was hard enough without using Octopus, Venison Sticks or rare Three Toed Sloth slices.

Another statistic worth looking at is this....Seven (7) eels were taken in ‘normal’ daylight times. Barry McConnell’s 4.14 was taken at 4.45pm, his 4.01 was taken at 2.25pm, his 3.12 was taken at 4.15pm and his 3.04 was taken at 10.45am. Graham Wilkes had his 5.02 at 10.45am and his 3.00 at 2.15pm. Pete Drabble had his 5.10 at 10.30am.

Barry and Pete’s fish were all taken in June, well into proper daylight conditions. Graham’s 5.02 was taken in July and his 3.00 fish was taken in September, so it was still daylight conditions as well for both of them.

January, March, November and December were the only months that didn’t produce an eel of 3lb+. (Strange about March though.) All interesting stuff though.....

Lastly, the Gunge. 'Spike' added two parts of the Gunge as a ghost writer. Both were aimed at 'Dances', one because 'Dances' has had his first 5lb+ Chub and now thinks he is 'King Chevin'. The other is because 'Dances' let it out to 'Spike' that he uses a false name on one particular water if he is challenged for his ticket. The point being that even a false name continues to give 'Dances' a blank and that the angling services of the Midland R.O., who is the false name kiddo, are always there to fall back on.

Well those are my thoughts on the Bulletin...down in print to be shot to pieces. I look forward to reading any off-shoots or differing opinions in the next issue of 'ANGUILLA'.

(I hope you all have a great season's eeling and that you land the eel of your dreams.)

LETTER TO THE GENERAL SECRETARY

14/04/01

Dear Steve,

First of all may I apologise for my non-appearance at recent club meetings. Unfortunately for the last couple of years I have been working Sunday to Thursday with Sunday being the busiest day of the week, hence my non-appearance.

Secondly, I will not be renewing my membership of the N.A.C. The last couple of years I have done little or no eel fishing mainly due to "that" water just up the road from me. They don't fight anything like an eel but with an average of 12-13lb, it's hard to resist.

I also find it quite disturbing that there appear to be what I would term "political" problems within the N.A.C. reference the documentation between Brian Crawford and the club committee. More worrying is the honesty and accuracy of reporting of sizes of large eels, caught by some of the membership, followed by the decision that 5lb+ eels be witnessed by other club members. I'm quite sure that neither yourself or most of the membership would appreciate a phone call from myself at 3:00am requesting a call out to witness a 5lb+ eel, thirty or fifty miles from home.

In some thirty eight years of fishing, the vast majority of which has been after specimens of one species or another, I have never had any cause for concern over the accuracy of my weighing, my honesty and integrity and the same goes for many of my closest friends, the Culleys, Rawson, McManus to name a few. Therefore I conclude that I have no wish to be associated with a club that appears to have an element within its membership that doesn't confer to the same guidelines, standards, honesty and credentials and integrity as myself.

Finally I wish the club the best for the future and a return to the principles of the earlier years

Andy Lister.

P.S. May I suggest this letter is printed in the next club magazine, it may prick the consciences of a few people.

COMMITTEE & REGIONAL OFFICERS 2001

The AGM held 18th March 2001 at The Queens Hotel, Long Eaton the following members were elected to serve on the committee in the positions listed below. The Members who will be Regional Officers are also listed. You will notice that the Regional officers position for the SOUTH area is vacant. If there is a member from that region who is willing to act as a contact, could they contact either Steve Richardson or Nick Rose to let them know.

Committee 2001

President	Arthur J. Sutton.
Vice-President	Brian Crawford.
Chairman	Nick Rose
General Secretary	Steve Richardson
Treasurer	Pat Huish
Membership Secretary	Mark Handley-Wood
Records Officer	Jimmy Jolley
Social Officer	Stuart Dean
Junior Officer	Anthony Jolley
Products Officer	Nick Rose
Internet Officer	Damian Wood
Bulletin Production Team	Stuart Dean, Jimmy Jolley & Damian Wood
Co-opted Committee Members	Malcolm Law, Chris Siddall, Erica Richardson.

Regional Officers.

North West	Peter Waterfield
North East	Mark Handley-Wood
Midlands	Jason Morgan
East	Graham Wilkes
South West	Steve Dawe
Thames	Paul Smith & Robert Haig
Welsh	Kevin Huish
South	Vacant

HOWL AT THE MOON (a little piece of the jigsaw).

by
Stuart "Spac-E-man" Dean



4lb 07ozs. Not bad for starters.

Bloody hell!! Another article from the Spac-E-man about the moon! Some of you will be thinking, "So that's why they call him the spaceman, he's obsessed with the big yellow ball in the night sky". Who does he think he is, Neil Armstrong? Well it's not the reason why I have acquired my nickname, (you will have to ask the person who gave it to me, for the answer to that one), I just happen to think that the moon and it's various phases, has an effect on the feeding behaviour of our beloved quarry. Because of the effect it has (**THINK** it has), it alters the methods I use when I fish for eels. I hope that this article will end up being more than just another article about the moon. If I can manage to put down on paper what is in my head, it should end up being about "**Being in the right place at the right time**".

I reckon there are two ways of increasing the probability that we are in the right place at the right time.

1. Fish our chosen water as often as we can, for as many hours as we can.
2. Be selective and follow any trends that develop/are developing.

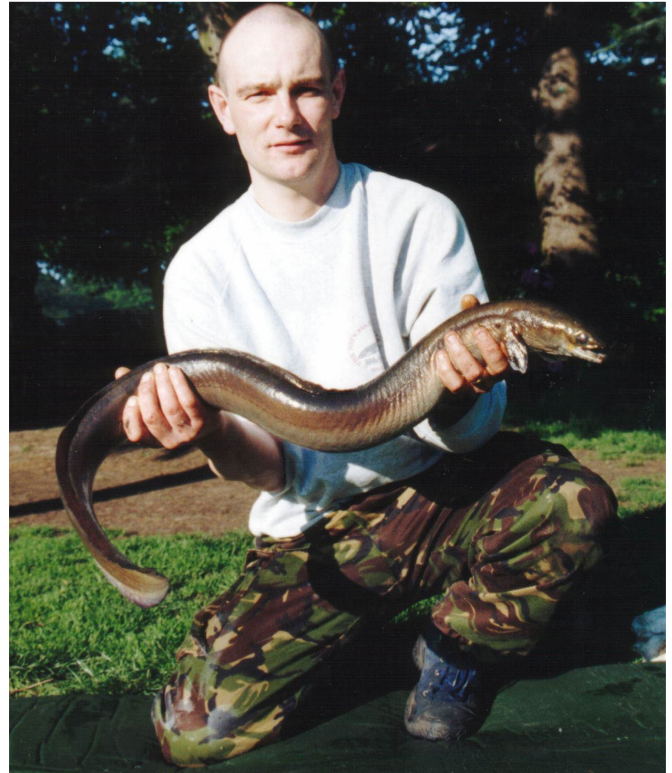
I will clarify point 2. If the water you are fishing never produces a run when it's raining. What's the point of fishing there when the skies are pouring down bucket loads of the wet stuff? You might as well be fishing another water that produces eels whether its raining or not, or spend the session discovering a new water. I think this would be a far more efficient way of using our fishing time.

I guess we all think that we know where the right place is, but the problem is we don't find out for sure until we are fishing there at the right time and using the right method, with the right bait. I'll be honest and say that I have been a lucky b*****d over the years, and managed to drop onto a couple of waters that have produced the goods very early on in my planned campaigns. More a case of luck than judgement. Don't get me wrong, I started to fish these waters because I had an inkling that they might produce, but to have my choice of venue vindicated so early on, was a huge bonus. Believe me, it becomes a lot easier to sit and blank on a water that you **KNOW** is capable of producing the quality of eels that you are looking for, despite how infrequently they might put in an appearance.

Those of you that have had the misfortune to fish with me, talk at any length with me, or have read my previous articles will no doubt be aware that I pretty much exclusively fish for eels with Off Bottom rigs. Because of the methods I use, the moon in my opinion, has a greater effect on the amount of success I have had.

I have for the three out of the last four summers (1997, 1999 and 2000) fished a lake that has produced some good eels. Not a lot of them, but enough to convince me that this **IS** the water that will produce the one eel that I am looking for. I've come close to achieving my ambition a couple of times. All I will say is that I have managed to hook, but not land, two eels that were bigger than any other eel I have caught. **MUCH BIGGER!!** I am not the only member of this club to witness the potential of this water. Dave Chatterton hooked and lost an eel at close range that, in his words, not mine, was "in a different class and would have eaten" the 5lb 13oz eel that I had caught from this lake when he came to witness and photograph it for me.

Great, a water that has already produced and has the potential to produce bigger and better eels, but this water is not the easiest of waters to fish. During the summer months, especially in the school holidays, it would be quieter to fish in Piccadilly Circus. There are lots of other anglers on the water and most of them are schoolkids who are more interested in living it up a little out of the sight of their parents. Hardly ten minutes goes by, without one of them walking past your carefully set margin rods to ask the inevitable question "have you caught anything mister". What a nightmare!! But the major problem is that it's what I call an "All or nothing water". By this I mean sessions tend to follow one of two patterns. If I get one run it is likely that I will get another. Then there is the other type of session that happens. The complete and utter blank. Not a sound from the alarms and definitely no movement of the indicators. The most frustrating thing in all this is the complete and utter blanks outnumber the sessions when runs occur, dramatically. I can have a session where I get two or three runs, and then this will be followed by five or six sessions when absolutely "bog all" happens. What you must get into perspective is that generally I only



5lb 13ozs. Even better for seconds.

fish once a week so five or six sessions turns into a five or six week wait for a run (or two, or three)!! It's like that saying, you wait ages for a bus and then two come at once. Love it or hate it, I have over the years come to terms with way things are when fishing for specimen eels. Lots of blanks and few successes. As the song goes "It's like that and that's the way it is" All that said, it doesn't mean that I am prepared to accept that it **HAS** to be this way. There has to be some reason why the eels in this lake all of a sudden decide that it's time to feed, a trigger of some sort.

OK, so where is all this taking us? Have you ever, after a session wondered why it was that you blanked, or conversely why it was that you caught? **IF YOU HAVEN'T YOU SHOULD HAVE!!** We just can't carry on justifying our blanks by saying "they just weren't having it" we have to look for reasons/clues as to **why** the eels "weren't having it" A jigsaw isn't made up of one big piece, you have to put all the little pieces together to see the whole picture.

This is where after all the waffling that I get down to the heart of the matter. I have for some time had a feeling that the moon phase was having some part to play in the amount of activity I was getting to my rods, or at least playing a part in the lack of activity I was suffering on the majority of my sessions.

The next part of this article you will have to take on trust, but if you have decided that you can't trust a scouser with anything, I suggest that you put your magazine down now, go and get a calculator, a pencil and some paper. and come back ready and prepared to do some sums.

I have fished this lake on 28 sessions, a total of 328 hours or 1143 rod hours, if I include the rod hours of the two guests (Nick “the eeling hedgehog” Rose and Ken Ward) that have fished this lake with me, the total rod hours is 1204. I have had 18 runs or indications of eel activity to my rods and have landed 4 eels, 4lb 08oz, 5lb 13oz, 4lb 07oz and 3lb 04oz. I have also lost 3 eels (1 in a snag, 1 with a bite off on wire and 1 with a hook pull). I have had runs on 9 sessions and blanked completely on 19 sessions. So the sums work out as follows: -

328 hours divided by 28 sessions = an average session length of 11hours 18 minutes
 1143 hours dived by 28 sessions = an average rod hours per session of 40 hours 51 minutes
 28 sessions divided by 18 runs = 1.55 runs per session. (Good eh?)
 328 hours divided by 18 runs = 18 .22 hours per run (Not Bad)
 1143 rod hours divided by 18 runs = 63 rod hour’s 32 minutes per run (Still not bad)
 (1204rod hours divided by 18runs = 66 rod hours 55 minutes per run (A bit worse)

I suppose it’s only fair that I should give you the information on baits etc, so here you are: -

Bait	Number of runs	Eels caught
Live bait	13	3 (4lb 08oz, 5lb 13oz, 3lb 04oz)
Lobworms	4	1 (4lb 07oz) (3 lost)
Deadbaits (whole & sections)	1	0

(Please take into account that livebaits have had more rod hours than any other bait)

According to these figures, things are pretty damn good (so what’s the point of this article?) and I bet there are a few of you out there wishing that they had figures that match these. I will break down the figures into the different moon phases and this should give you an idea of where I’m coming from. First of all let me explain how the moon phase works.

The moon goes through 4 phases over a period of 29 days. These are: -

New Moon (day 1 to day 7)
 1st Quarter (day 8 to day 14)
 Full Moon (day 15 to day21)
 Last (4th) Quarter (day 22 to day 29)

This period of 29 days I call the Moon phase cycle.

Here are the figures and two graphs for the number of hour’s and runs etc in relation to moon phase and each day of the moon phase cycle: -

Moon Phase	Runs	Hours Fished	Rod Hours
New Moon	0	56	181
1 st Quarter	7	129	457
Full Moon	8	86	318
Last (4 th) Quarter	3	54	181

New Moon

56 hours divided by 0 runs = N/A (Why Bother!!)
 181 rod Hours divided by 0 runs = N/A

1st Quarter

129 hours divided by 7 runs = 18 hours 30 minutes per run (Pretty good)
 457 rod hours divided by 7 runs = 65 rod hours 17 minutes per run

Full Moon

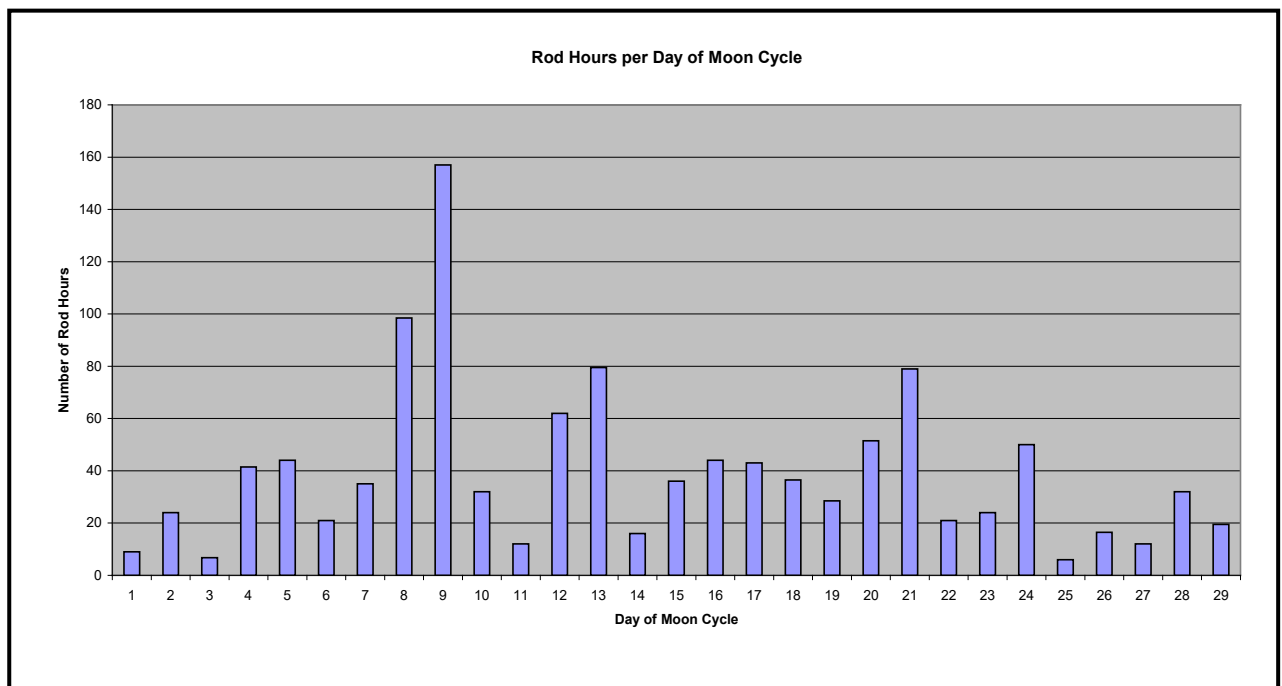
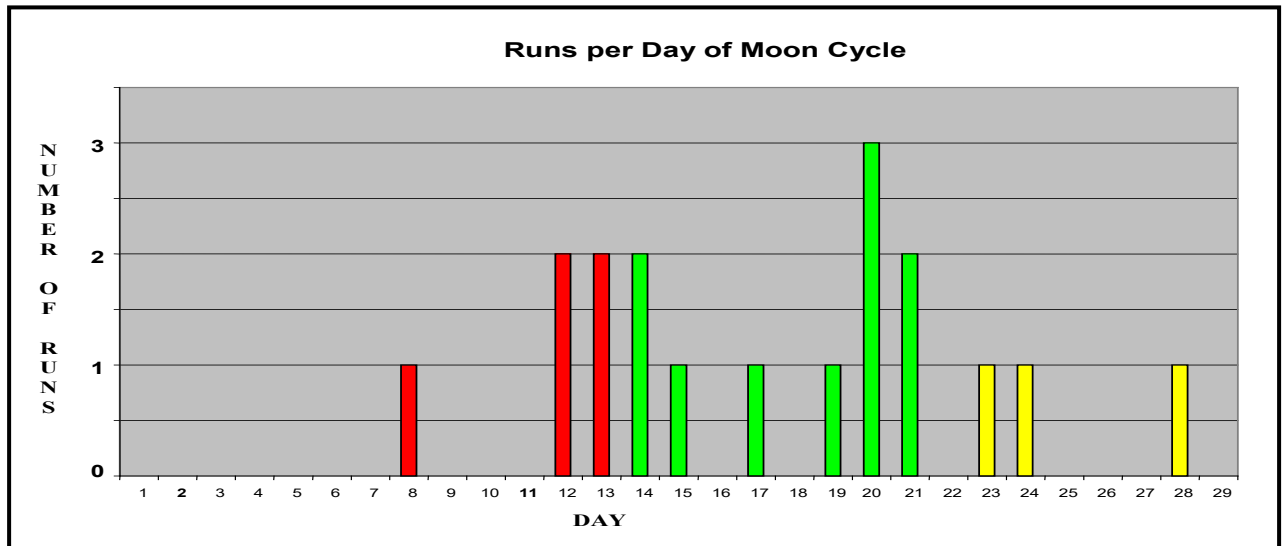
86 hours divided by 8 runs = 10 hours 49 minutes per run (Very good)

318 rod hours divided by 8 runs = 39 rod hours 48 minutes per run

Last (4th) Quarter

54 hours divided by 3 runs = 18 hours per run (Pretty good)

181 rod hours divided by 3 runs = 60 rod hours 25 minutes per run



Now things should be starting to look a little clearer. If we look even more closely at the statistics we can see that the most productive period on this lake is from the 12th day of the moon phase cycle through to the 21st day of the moon phase cycle. In this 9 day period I have had 14 runs from a total of 18 runs This represent almost **78%** of all the runs I have had on this water!! Further to this, all of the eels I have caught have been caught within this period of time. One on the 12th day, one on the 14th day, one on the 20th day and one on the 21st day. One eel was lost on the 21st day and the only other eel to be connected with but lost fell outside of this period, being hooked on the 8th day of the moon cycle. The periods between the 8th day of the cycle to the 11th day of the cycle and 23rd day to 28th day of the cycle still more than worthy of some fishing time as between them they have managed to produce the remaining 22% of my runs. As I see it, It seems I have made one of two mistakes.

1. I've not made any adjustments to the way I fish during the New Moon phase.
2. I fished the lake during the New moon phase when I should have been somewhere else.

To put it more bluntly I'm either an idiot for not noticing the trend or I've been wasting my precious eeling time during New Moon phase when it could have been better spent somewhere else.

Lets deal with point one first. I have always taken into account the moon phase brightness etc.



4lb 08ozs. First worm caught eel from this water.

As a consequence I have made adjustments to the height off bottom my baits were fished. When the moon was big, bright and visible, I would fish my baits well up in the water. So much so that at times the bait would be suspended inches below the surface. When the moon was not there or small and not visible I would fish my baits very close to the lakebed. The amount of difference between fishing off bottom by an inch or two and ledgering the bait hard on the bottom would have made about as much difference to my results as a midge's reproductive organ would make to a female elephant on heat! In my opinion it wasn't/isn't a lack of adjustment to the way I fish that has made the New Moon phase so unproductive, so what could it be?

Now we will have to delve into the realms of supposition. The first major factor that **MIGHT** have affected my results is the amount of available light. We all know that eels are very photosensitive. It has always been said that eels feed best when there is no moon. Well at first glance my results would say the complete opposite i.e., the more light there is the more feeding the eels do. Of course the fact that the moon is at it's biggest and brightest during the days leading up to and just after day 21 of the moon cycle doesn't necessarily mean that these are the nights that are the brightest in terms of available light. There are a couple of factors that will influence the amount of brightness and available light. Number one is the amount of cloud cover. A light bulb just ain't as bright if you throw a black cover over it. Number two is the position of the moon in the night sky. Sometimes it will be quite low in the sky and only visible for a short period of time and at other times it will be high in the sky and visible all night long. So there are too many variables to attribute the upturn in results to the brightness of the moon and the amount of light available. The second factor that **MIGHT** make a difference to the results is the fact that the moon controls the tides and therefore movement of water. I doubt very much that this could have any deciding effect on the feeding habits of the eel. I say this for two reasons. The first reason is that the amount of water that would be moved in lakes the size that I fish is likely to be negligible, and the second reason and probably the most convincing one is the fact that the most amount of water that is ever moved in a tide happens at two points in the moons cycle i.e. day 1, The first day of New Moon, and day 21, the first day of Full Moon. Therefore if this were the factor that was affecting the eels feeding habits, the periods around both of these days in the moon cycle would be the most productive. Granted that this upturn in feeding activity is evident in the period around Full Moon but it doesn't happen in the period around New Moon. Therefore I have discounted this as the reason for my results on this lake.

The third factor that **MIGHT** influence our quarry's behaviour is Geomagnetic forces (WHAT!!!!!!). Let me explain. As the moon moves around the Earth, at different points in its cycle the distance between the moon and the earth vary. This has an effect on the earth's natural magnetism. The greater or lesser distance the moon is away from the earth will have a greater or lesser effect on these magnetic fields. I can see most of you thinking that I am talking through my a**e, but thanks to Jimmy Jolley who recently gave me a copy of some extracts from scientific

research documents, in which various experiments were conducted on eels, I have a little bit of an insight into how Geomagnetic forces can affect eels behaviour. In one experiment magnetic fields were generated to mimic earth's magnetic North. These fields were then adjusted in such a way as to mimic the effect the moon has on the earth's magnetic field and the difference in the eel's behaviour was noted. Believe it or not, migrating eels actually changed the direction in which they swam. So instead of following what would be their normal migration route, they in effect became disoriented and swam in a totally different direction. So what has this got to do with an eels feeding habits. Well the short answer is God only knows, but if these magnetic forces can alter an eel's ability to swim in the right direction, it at least shows just how sensitive eels are to minute changes in their environment. Who's to say that these forces don't only alter their directional senses but their feeding senses to?

So the next question is what do I do now? Well I think the answer is pretty obvious. In my humble opinion there is little or nothing I can do to combat the effect of available light or lack of it, movement of water (tides) and the possible result of changes in water pressure, or changes in geomagnetic forces and the resulting changes to an eels behaviour.

The answer is to ignore the lake during New Moon and spend my time fishing for eels on one of the numerous other waters I am interested in fishing but just haven't got around to spending any time on yet. But don't worry you will be able to find me sitting on the right lake between the 8th and 21st day of the moon cycle

This article is not about making excuses for not going fishing, but about choosing the right water to suit the prevailing conditions. It's about **being in the right place at the right time**. Of course you won't be able to work out any trends etc if you don't keep a reasonably comprehensive notebook, in which you note down ALL of the factors that might be making a difference to you results. By analysing my captures and my blanks, I think I have managed to increase my chances of being on the right water at the right time. You might be able to do the same.

I suppose only time will tell and you never know the Spac-E-man might be taking another trip to the moon, in yet another article sometime in the future!!!!!!! Well that's almost it folks. I will leave you all to ponder the words in this article. But before I go I will give you another couple of things to think about. Has the Spac-E-man has got his head in the clouds or is he just on another planet? And finally, is the moon really made of cheese?

EEL FISHING - A BEGINNERS TALE

by

Christopher Greenbank (Aged 13)

I caught my first eel whilst fishing for Perch on Lake Windermere. I didn't weigh what seemed to me to be an enormous eel, but my Dad reckoned it was going on for a pound in weight. From that moment I was determined to become a specialist Eel fisherman. Unfortunately my Dad did not share my enthusiasm and persuading him to concentrate on eels proved somewhat difficult over the forthcoming months.

Eventually, however, he was persuaded to visit members of The National Anguilla Club who were having a fish-in at the 'Limey' in Wigan. This visit seemed to have had a positive effect on him and after taking some advice off Anthony Jolley we made our first proper fishing trip in pursuit of Eels.

We arrived at the Leeds-Liverpool Canal at 4.00 a.m. It was still dark so we tackled up using the headlights of the car. We used big lobworms (almost the size of the first eel I caught!) and baited up with chopped worms and maggots. The rods were set up and we settled down to watch the sunrise. It wasn't long before two officious looking gentlemen appeared in the distance. "There's a match on here in a couple of hours", one of them shouted. We couldn't believe it! A notice hadn't been put up stating that there was going to be a match (but to be honest we wouldn't have noticed it in the dark anyway). Therefore, after throwing three-quarters of my bait in, we had to move. Not a good start to my Eel fishing. We carted the tackle a mile up the canal to another likely looking spot and started again.

With in half an hour the alarms started to sound and the bobbins started to dance a little, but there were no definite runs. Being inexperienced Eel anglers we weren't really sure what to do, but opted to wait and see what happened. Eventually we got a run. The fish put up quite a fight and I was convinced it was an Eel - only to be disappointed (!) with a 1 1/2 pound perch. You go fishing for perch and catch an eel, go fishing for eels and catch a perch!

Later I caught a small bream and another perch. The perch came in whilst a boat was passing. At the same time my Dad got into a fish. The man in the passing boat shouted out, "Who says boats have a bad effect on fishing." My Dad was struggling to get his fish in and his 21lb test curve rod was bent right over. He then shouted that he'd got an Eel. Typical! The reluctant eel fisherman had caught an eel. However, as the Eel was brought in I could see it had a distinctly woody look about it - the Eel was a sunken branch!

So we had a good day despite not catching an eel. We had a few laughs, the biggest when my Dad attempted to land a tree and there was also an incident when a passing cyclist nearly ended up in our swim. That was my one and only eel fishing trip of the season. Soon after the weather deteriorated and I turned my attention to Pike fishing.

However, next season I will renew my NAC membership (I'll try and persuade my Dad to join as well), I now have a bivvy (the old man must be softening up to this eel fishing) and hopefully I'll get a few Eel sessions in. As a newcomer to Eel fishing I hope to learn a lot through the junior section and other members of the club, but what would also be useful are some articles aimed at beginners - and not just for juniors - my Dad hasn't a clue!

MY INTRODUCTION TO EEL FISHING

by
George Walton

Having recently joined the Perchfishers as well as the National Anguilla Club I thought I might do an article/introduction about my eeling experiences so far.

One of the rules of the Perchfishers is to write at least one article, for the magazine, per year. Which I think is a good idea as it keeps all members involved in the club, especially the one's who cannot attend meetings or fish-in's.

I don't keep records as such, but do keep a diary of what I catch so some of this article/introduction is from memory and may be a bit vague.

In my early teens I fished the river Wear near Bishop Auckland, my mates and me would trot or ledger for trout until about an hour before dark and then we would all meet up at Jock's Bridge, where the river Gaunless entered the Wear. This river was filthy and the eels loved it. We could easily catch up to a dozen eels to about 1 1/4 lbs in a couple of hours, it was great fun and nearly always ensured we caught something even if the trout weren't biting.

Living in a game fishing area we were told by salmon and trout anglers to kill all the eels we caught, as they eat all the eggs. The eels were never wasted as I knew some people who would eat anything we caught. I suppose we knew no better, but have learned to return all eels back alive.

When I left school I moved to my Grandmother's house as I got a job a couple of miles away and would fish the river Tees on the way home, after work, for an hour or so. A tributary of the Tees however held eels and I would sometimes fish this beck at night for eels. Again, no great size but I still enjoyed it. One night the farmer's son and I were eeling and heard a lot of squealing on the far bank (only about 20 feet away) my torch light picked out a mink killing a water vole, the mink just threw the dead vole in to the river and carried on hunting the bank. By the time Nezzie got back with the gun, the mink had gone, I trapped three mink within a week, as I quite like water voles. I still trap mink on the beck but unfortunately there are no voles left.

About 12 years ago I started to fish a private estate lake called Forcett Park. The eels were very obliging on lobworms but wouldn't touch any other bait. I caught a personal best perch here of 2lb - 12ozs on a roach head while eeling, but the best day I had at Forcett lake was one day in March when I had prebaited a corner swim with dead worms the day before, my mate and I caught seven eels to 2lb - 8ozs in about four hours. This was quite unusual in that most people caught only one or two all day. The owner liked every one gone before

dark so he could lock the gates. The fishing was stopped about six years ago due to some idiots refusing to leave when asked, the owner eventually got them to leave by calling the police and since then has stopped all fishing and turned the place into a bird sanctuary.

Apart from the odd eel accidentally I hadn't fished for them until last year, sick of the "carp bug" I decided to target eels on a gravel pit I had fished on and off for about 10 years. I had had quite a bit of success with pike on the 64 acre pit, but had tried for a carp for a couple of years without success. While talking to different lads, most seemed to have heard of or seen some big eels to 4½ lbs with rumours of eels to 7lb.

I fished my first proper eeling session on the 4th August last year without success, so the next Friday evening I was one a swim I had fancied for quite a while. It entailed a fair walk and I had never seen anyone fish it, which suited me as I don't like crowds.

I had a bucket full of lobworms and some small dead perch, I had also brought about 1lb of minced rabbit (usually fed to my dogs) and mixed with groundbait and chopped worms, what eel could resist? 15 runs between 11p.m and 4a.m all on worms, 7 eels caught between 2lb – 00ozs and 2lb – 14ozs. I was pleased but also frustrated at the dropped runs as some were "screamers", but on striking, nothing. I have since learned to accept this as part of eel fishing, the only bite on dead perch came from a 4lb pike.

The next Friday night and another move to the other side of the lake, on eels, one pike and a small perch.

1st September and back to the first swim, same tactics and bait, seven runs, three eels including my personal best of 3lb – 06ozs, more dropped runs, more frustration and another pike of 5lb.

8th September a different part of the lake and three eels to three runs, biggest 1lb – 12ozs and a better pike of 14lb to dead perch.

Next Friday and my mate Martin decided to join me with his daughter Gemma. Back to the good swim, Martin had eels to 2lb – 08ozs and I had a couple of 3lb'ers, all on lobs. Martin also had a pike of 5lbs and a 10½lb, his first pike. I caught the same 5lb fish the next morning.

That's most of my eel fishing to date some accidentally, some on purpose but all enjoyed.

I will keep more accurate records in future because I learned quite a lot just by looking back over a few nights fishing.

All the eels from Ellerton Park came on lobworms but I also had a couple of dropped runs on dead perch, but I don't know if they were pike or eels. Deep-hooking was a problem, but I hope to solve this problem next time by using bunches of lobworms, rather than singles.

If anyone is interested in fishing Ellerton Park, just give me a call on 01833 660849. A season ticket is £50, and runs January to January, and day tickets are £3 :50p. There are plenty of swims where you can park next to your swim, and toilets in the main car park, the caravan field is usually full of noisy caravaners but you can also fish from it. The biggest problems are windsurfers and sometimes divers, but the divers are usually limited to certain parts of the lake.

The fishing can be very hard but worth while and there are a variety of species present including roach, chub, barbel, pike, carp and of course eels.

Can I take this opportunity thank Steve Richardson our General Secretary for his encouragement to write this article/introduction, and may I wish all National Anguilla Club members a good years fishing.

Cheers,

PRESSURISING EELS PART: 3

by

Damian 'The Burglar' Wood and Jimmy "The Sniffer" Jolley

This article is mainly aimed at trying to come to some conclusions and results on some of the changes we made to our set-ups and rigs mentioned in (PRESSURIZING EELS PART 2:) To see if slight modifications to our rigs would make a difference to our run ratio or not, fishing the same canal stretches for the same possible population of eels!

A SHORT RE-CAP:

If you read our other article you would have noticed that we added two cork-balls to our 15 inch rig-tubing on our main line. This was mainly added to reduce the amount of " aborted takes", after the eel had un-clipped the line from our indicator clips. If you also remember the eels that we caught from the canal the previous year came out on worms using the dyson rig, so if we came across an eel that either had been caught before, or had been hooked or lost, and even "spooked " on the intial strike. These cork-balls even though a small change could may be make a noticable difference to a taking eel that had come across this bait and presentation before on the same stretch of canal.

RESULT:

Well did it make a difference? The real answer to the question is **No!** The reason it didn't make a difference is because we didn't get any runs at all on the worms using the Dyson rig and we wasted at least a month at the beginning of the season finding this out, nor did we get any runs on half deads as well, presented on the Dyson rig. Was it down to the bait? Or the presentation? Or both? Had the eels already left the building so to speak? There were other factors that made a difference in our results this year from the last. For one, the weather at the beginning of the year (end of April) we had severe snow and NE winds which brought a cold air for most of April, May, and mid June, with SW winds being very sparse and not staying long enough to make any difference to the climate, compared to last year, were the weather was hot and storms almost every week making the eels more active earlier on in the year. This year it's getting better near the end of the year than at the beginning, The other factor was time! Eventually I (the burglar) was sent on a course learning computer related stuff? Like data-base and so on, so I was at college four times a week, leaving Thursday our only night to get out. These are not excuses but actual facts of the matter and in some cases part of life! So what did we do next to start getting runs again? So were do I start, a good question! Certain events arisen this year that totally change our approach to how we fished the canal this year, from how we fished the canal last season.

The first major change to our approach this year was the use of a third rod each, fishing a different presentation , the second was the use of live baits on this third rod. Mainly down to the success Tony B.T. had this season.

We went fishing on a completely new stretch of the Leeds and liverpool for a full week-end , walking as far as we could the first night , while on the second night travelling closer to our pick up point to save on walking after spending a full week end with little sleep and poor eating (plenty of beef burgers). The first night, baits were collected which by accident were on the large size, or to say slightly larger than I would consider ideal ' bite size' eel baits, one of these fish a skimmer bream roughly about 4-6 inches long and about 3-4 inches wide, (quite a struggle for a cormrant never mind an eel!) which Jimmy used on the new rig placed in the margins of the canal, just in the near chanal slope, while the others two rods were placed on 'dyson rigged livey's' to the centre and far channal, while I fished to the right of Jimmy using the same tactics.

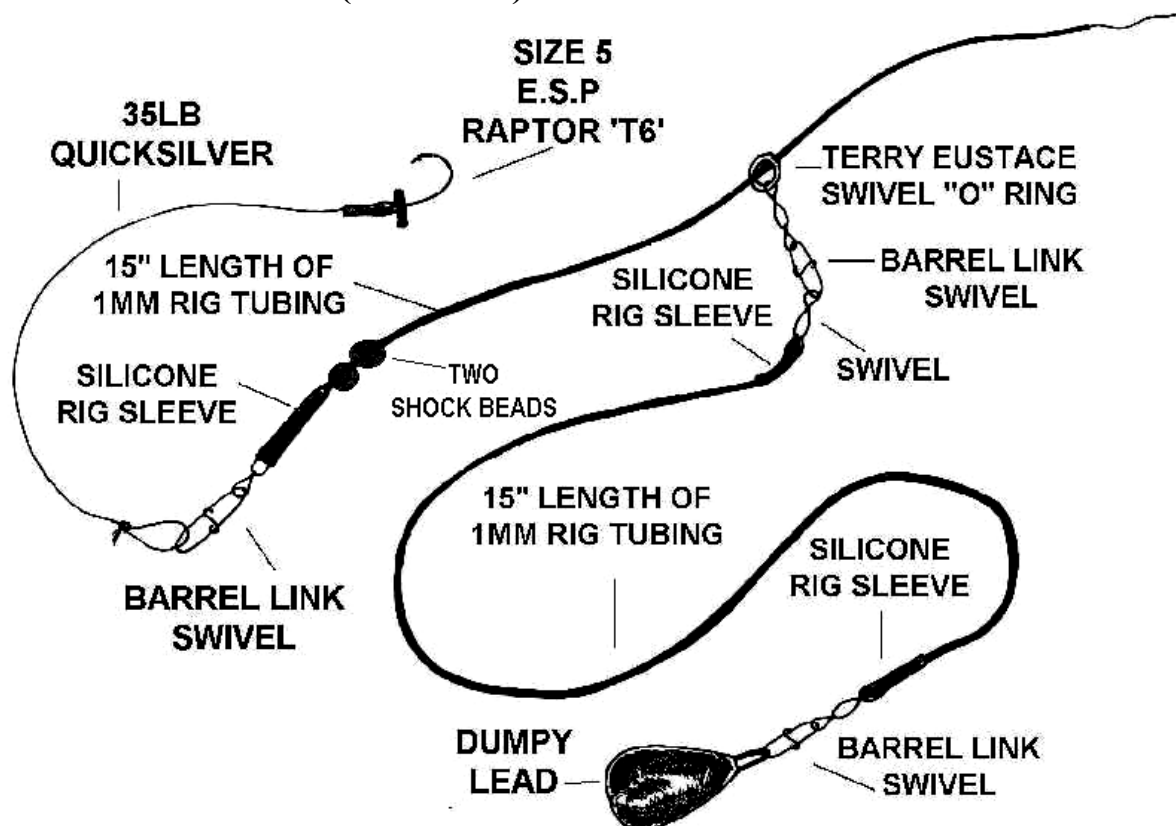
It was coming on to dawn then all of a sudden the bream live bait rod broke into sound and started to rage up the canal, Jimmy wound down on to the fish and struck, the rod bent right over for a few seconds then the eel came adrift. Jimmy was too tired to inspect the bait and through it back in, returing to the comfort of his 'snooze' chair. That morning we decided to pack up and move further on for the second night. On reeling in the skimmer bait, he called me over to inspect the marking left on the bait. The eel had hit the bait dead centre and from 'underneath' I'll use this term lightly because you

can't tell what position the bait was in on the initial contact, or if the bait was still alive or dead when the eel took it. There was a distinctive 'U' shape impression across the middle of the skimmer, roughly about 1-2 inches across in diameter at the tip of the bend, you could also see the outline of its lips, which were as wide as your thumb on both sides, how big was this fish, who could tell, except it's the biggest mouth I've seen on an eel yet. The second night Jimmy had two absolute screamers again on the same presentation, fished in the same spot (margins) which were both missed and that was the result of the whole week end, a blank, but a lot came from this blank.

On our return to our canal that we normally fish, we decided to give this approach ago , we had nothing to loose. We fished a similar stretch of canal as we did at the week end, a " baron stretch" of canal with no trees, or bend, but straight like a Roman road, with deep margins, with the different presentation presented in the near marginal drop off, while the other two rods were fished on 'dyson rigs' all on live-baits with the new rig in the centre, the left hand rod placed further down the margins and the right hand rod placed on the far drop off into the boat channel, while my rods were fished **exactly** the same to the left of Jimmy this time. The two 'dyson' rods were fished on the average size bait we got, while the middle rod was fished on the biggest bait we could muster, all being the same bait.

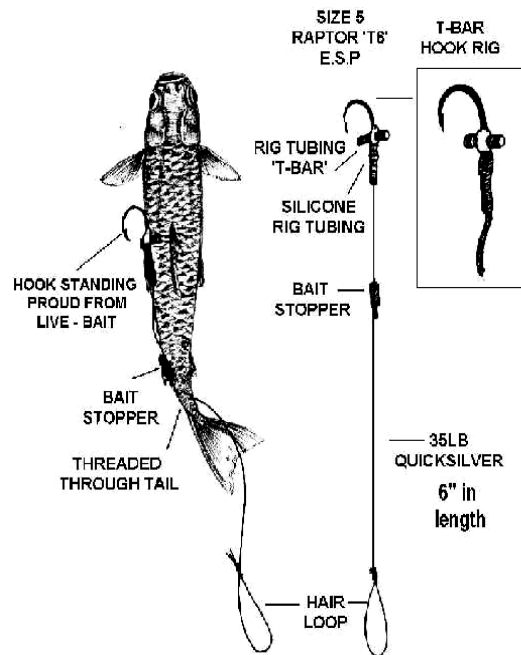
That night saw Jimmy miss one run on the dyson rig placed in the boat channel, positioned some thirty yards up the canal, the second run at about 00.30 came to the middle rod, but while he was sorting a new bait out, the far channel rod went again, which he also missed, all in all four runs were encountered that night, a first on the canal for us. With two runs coming to the different presentation and two runs on the dyson rig. After this session no runs ever came to the dyson rigged baits only the different presentation, no matter where it was placed, with all rods being ignored including mine, it was a strange occurrence that a fish would totally disregard three rods in one direction and two rods in the other, something the both of us couldn't way up, this happened every time we went out.

THE UNIVERSAL-RIG (UNI-RIG):



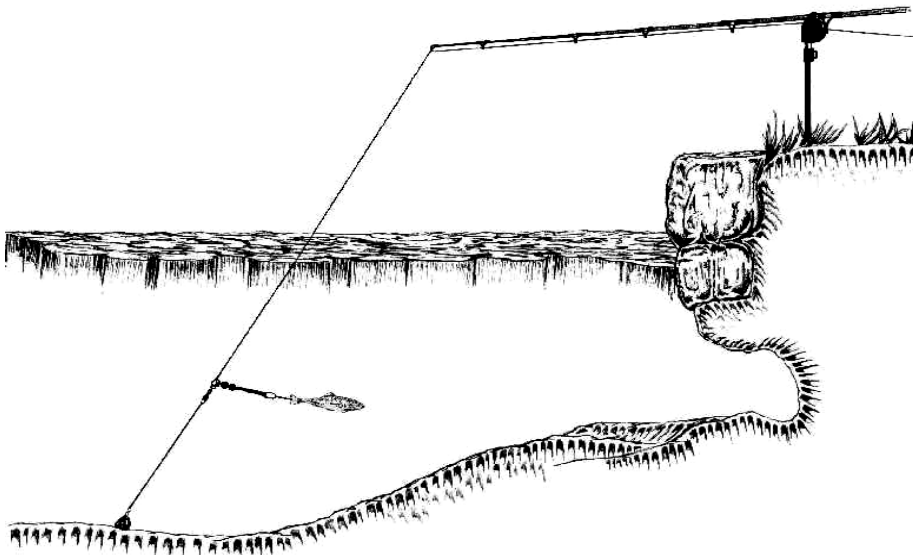
The diagram is self explanatory, so I don't need to go into detail, the reason we called it this was duly to the fact that it was easy to change from one rig to another without tackling down, just un-doing one clip and changing something and it became a dyson rig or what ever. Making life easy in the darkness of the night, and that's it. This was placed in the margins on a live bait. There is nothing radical or remotely new here, it appears in the "*Perch fishers*" and has just been slightly changed to suit our needs for eels.

Hook-link:



As you can see from the diagram on the hook we have added a bar which is glued into place to prevent the point of the hook imbedding into the live bait, keeping the hook proud of the bait, with the stopper relieving the pressure off the hook as the bait swims against the rig, and pulling the hook into its self.

How it was fished:





The first eel of the season: A live bait caught 4lb 15 oz



Last eel of the season: A live-bait 5lb 03oz

Conclusion:

Even though we didn't do nowhere near as many sessions this year,(for one reason or another), we still managed more runs this year than we did last year, but because our live-bait experience of when to hit them is limited (even though both eels were lipped hooked). We missed almost all the runs we had this year. Landing only these two fish. The conclusion to this article and the final part of "Pressurizing Eels" and what has been mentioned in all of them, well that is something you'll have to come up with for yourselves.

T.G. EELS FROM THE GARDEN

by

Jason "Eric the eel" Morgan

An Introduction.

Before I begin my article I have put together a few of my own thoughts and feelings regarding eel fishing and fishing in general. I also hope this sets the scene for my piece and goes some way to explaining why, when I have caught an eel (any eel!) I cannot shut up about it for weeks. I am sure my wife will testify to this!

Eel fishing is not easy (it doesn't take a genius to figure this out!!). In fact it can be downright soul destroying at times. It takes a special kind of person to sit it out night after night behind silent alarms and motionless indicators. I believe they are called masochists. Depriving themselves of sleep or the warmth of a pub or good woman. A run becomes something of an event, so it's even more frustrating when you miss one.

Trudging home with heavy eyelids and a dry net to boot, you would think that we have had enough, but no, after a good sleep and some proper food we are already planning the next session. The term fishing implies that those participating catch fish. As this is all too often not the case, perhaps we should re-phrase EEL FISHING to EEL WISHING. Or maybe I'm just not doing it right.

I learned the basics of this great sport of ours on the banks of the Trent & Mersey Canal, at Little Haywood, where I grew up. There was a small group of us, five altogether who fished the same stretch and the two pools by the village club.

Days were spent hunting the vast shoals of gudgeon, perch and daddy ruffe that roam the near shelf, within reach of our six-foot spinning rods. Many a time a six-ounce perch was the topic of conversation at the Sunday dinner table, and if someone caught a roach, well that would be the talk of the week on the school bus. As we progressed, new species were added to our captures helped by improving tackle and a better understanding of what we were trying to do. Skimmers, chub, carp, and even one of the rare tench or rudd were beginning to put in an appearance and anything out of the ordinary came under intense scrutiny by other members of the group. In short, if you didn't have a photo of your catch, then you didn't catch it! Pike came much later, we did catch a few by accident from the river, but most of the time we went pike fishing when nothing else would feed and thus caught bugger all.

At this time no one had ever seen, yet alone caught an eel and I don't think any of the others were in any hurry to catch one, but I was different. My imagination had been fuelled by the wonderful stories my dad would tell of the battles lost with big eels hooked in Lifford Reservoir, when he was young. I wanted to catch one of these mysterious monsters too, but despite using lobworms and maggots for most of my fishing, not even a little boot could be tempted. Night fishing was out of the question. Partially because the club had banned it and also because my dad wasn't happy with me staying out all night on my own. So my quest for *Anguilla anguilla* had to wait. So as you can see I have never been a specialist angler, nor have I been a specimen hunter, simply an angler with a great deal of respect and fascination (bordering on obsession!) with a predator that I can't seem to catch very often.

I have now been searching out eels for four years....ish, with the following results: -

1997- 1lb 08oz, 2lb 00oz, 2lb 08oz. **1998** – 2lb00oz, 2lb 06oz, 2lb 13oz, 3lb 04oz, 3lb 06oz.

1999 – 2lb 04oz, 2lb 07oz, 2lb 12oz, 2lb 12oz, 3lb 07oz, 4lb 00oz

The above eels, along with two taken this year (2000), were taken from roughly 50 sessions with the majority coming from my local canal. Now I know 50 sessions may not seem a lot, but my fishing time is limited and if I get 20 sessions in a year I am happy.

So on to my article. The following piece is about a water I fished this year for the first time and an account of the three sessions, starting with the N.A.C. fish-in that took place on the weekend of Saturday may 20th 2000.



Chris Siddall with his T. G. 3lb 09ozs

The first night of the N.A.C. fish-in on Trentham Gardens saw me at home. I had been unable to weasel my way out of working Saturday, so Friday evening was spent getting all of the gear ready in order to make a quick getaway come Saturday afternoon. Finally, when the mountain of tackle was assembled and making passage through the hallway virtually impossible, I decided to give Mark Smethurst a call to see how everyone was doing. Mark informed me that the bank he was fishing from was covered with trees and marginal rush beds, yet despite this there had been no action from these typically “eely” looking swims. Instead it had been the opposite more barren bank which had produced the two eels caught so far, a boot to Pete Drabble and a 3lb 09oz to Chris Siddal. Mark also informed me that the boot had been caught on worm but the 3.09 to Chris had taken a roach head. This surprised me, as I had been lead to believe

that Trentham was a worm water. This also caused me a little concern as I had just shelled out thirteen quid on lobs and had no other bait, given the fact that I am crap at swishing, hopeless at catching bait, (unless it’s from a canal) it was going to be worms or nowt! Marks parting words had also unnerved me, these being “don’t forget some jungle juice, we’re being eaten alive down here!” Now, I don’t know what it is about me but whenever I go fishing it’s like ringing the dinner bell for any creature that flies and bites. So I was not relishing the thought of once again becoming mozzi fodder but as I had no repellent I would have to take my chances with this winged enemy.

My brother Matt had been given the honour of being my taxi service to the venue and so at 6.00 p.m. on the Saturday evening we were on our way, destination – Trentham!

Finding Trentham Gardens was no problem, however, finding the lake itself proved somewhat more difficult than we had expected. First we headed straight for the main building, where upon asking to pay for the fishing, I was confronted by two rather confused but still menacing looking bouncers who, by the look of them, were itching for a fight. It was at this point that I reasoned the lake was probably nowhere near the dance hall and retreating to the safety of the car resumed the search. Our next stop turned out to be the golf course car park! So I jumped out of Matt’s Rover and bimbled (that’s Mike speak for wandered), over to the clubhouse in search of somebody I could get directions from. By this time I was getting worried I would not be set up before dark and Matt was getting increasingly frustrated at his inability to find 50 plus acres of water! I spied two well-dressed gents heading to their car and shuffled over to them. They seemed to examine me for a few seconds then recoiled in horror when they realised just how close this scruffy, camouflaged, welly stomping individual was to their gleaming red BMW I was quickly directed as far away from them as possible, over to the other side of the grounds. Finally, after more searching and considerable distress to Matt’s shiny new alloys, we found the fishing hut and soon after the lake itself.

My first impression of Trentham was that it was much bigger than I had expected and that it was a very nice looking place indeed, so if I was doomed to get another bleepless blank I would at least have some nice scenery to view during my stay. As we rumbled round the lake we came across Barry McConnell and Pete Drabbles swim. During the journey the journey to the venue I had been telling Matt about Mr McConnell and the true exceptional eels that have found their way to his landing net. I decided to introduce my brother to such a high calibre of specimen Eel hunter so he would be really impressed and possibly give up match fishing altogether thus giving me a more regular session buddy and saving money on taxis. My plan backfired! You see, Matt is a match angler and has had no shortage of success on his local waters, this inevitably means the use of all the latest gadgets and gizmos in order to put a few “plips” and “blades” (matchman speak for Roach and Skimmers, i.e. bait) in his net, so imagine the look of horror that he displayed when he realised that Barry’s “sophisticated” bobbins were actually curtain hooks!! Matchman or not he certainly appreciated the size Chris Siddall’s monster canal catfish, imagine hooking one of those things on a pole!



Pete Drabble with his 3lb 14ozs eel

With darkness fast approaching it was time to get sorted. I decided to bivvy up on the treeless bank and did this for three reasons. Firstly, all of the Eels that I knew about had been taken from this bank. Second, less trees would hopefully mean less insects and reduce the chance of me going home looking like something from a B-movie horror film, Lastly the Hedgehog was on this bank and as well as absorb his vast knowledge of Eel fishing, he would almost certainly have a supply of fish baits (and is usually good for a lift!) With the shelter assembled it was time to say good bye to Matt and sort the rods, rigs and bait positions out for the night ahead. The first rod, a simple 1 oz running ledger carrying 3 big lobs, was placed to my left about 20 foot from the bank. The second rod, on Dyson fished worms, was placed opposite the first to the right of the swim and I made a retreat back to the bivvy to avoid the drizzle that had just started. Cuppa in hand, I sat watching the now heavier rain pondering what was going to happen over the net few hours and if the last few sessions were anything to go by, not much. Not even half way down the first brew the left-hand rod let rip. Jumping out of the bivvy and sliding down the squidgy bank I was on the rod in a flash but the fish was quicker and by the time I went to pick the rod up had dropped the bait leaving me to reel in the mangled worms and try again. Out to the same spot went the bait and I trudged back to the shelter. This turned out to be the start of a number of runs all to the same rod, none of which I could hit resulting in swearing, a rise in blood pressure and a thorough soaking. By 11.30 p.m. I was wet, stressed and had developed a nervous twitch caused by even the slightest bleep of the alarm. It seemed that the fish, (whatever they were) were speeding off with the bait, then dropping it straight away. After considerable brain work and a few calls to Mark Smethurst, I reasoned that the only logical thing to do was to stand by the rod until a run commenced then hit it straight away. This would mean standing in the rain but buy this time I was pretty much soaked through and wouldn't notice anyway. Positioning the drop off indicator parallel to the back of the pod I stood and waited. The indicator rose 2 inches, picking up the rod I wound down fast on the fish whilst walking backwards then struck so violently that, had I been using braid I would have surely decapitated the worm snaffling culprit. To my delight the rod top bumped and bounced

about bit and such was my excitement at hooking something I began shouting hysterically and woke Nick up. The rest, I believe has been covered in the gunge (or should that be covered **in** gunge!). A nice Perch of about two pounds was my one and only success on that first trip to T.G. but I did see Chris' 3.09 and a 3.11 caught by Pete Drabble. I would be back!

By the time August came around my total for the year since starting in March, was one Eel of 3.05 taken in late July from my local stretch of the SW canal. With the wedding fast approaching I had two more sessions of most before my time would have to be dedicated to the final preparations of the wedding and the reception. The day after we would be flying to Majorca for our honeymoon, so I would not be back in the U.K. until early October. My Eel season usually ends in September so I knew this would be my last chance to add another Eel to my catch report for 2000. Having blanked out on the canal since my one success in July, I decided to change the venue for my final assault on the Anguilla population for that year. My session partner Mike was due some time off so this seemed like the perfect opportunity for a return visit to T.G. Mike had, so far only managed one session taking a 2.06 from the canal whilst fishing with me, yes I blanked out as usual, (I think the reason Mike likes fishing with me is that I make him look good!), however, Mike has his uses. He is the best bank-side cook you could wish for and has the added bonus of having a car, so for once transport to the venue would not be a problem.

The day of the planned session had been very hot and by the time we reached the lake the clouds had started to build and the air had reached that heavy, clammy stage that often precedes a thunderstorm. One of the nice things about Trentham is that you can get the car right down next to where you are fishing so we soon had the shelters assembled, the kettle on and rods rigged. A bottle of wine was dunked in the margins to chill and we set about baiting up and positioning the rods for the night ahead. My rods were set to fish large bunches of lobworms on the bottom at varying distances from my own bank. This was done in order to cover as much water as I could cast to (which is not a lot!!!), Mike also decided to use worms as bait and positioned his rods in opposite areas to mine. As the kettle started to hiss a few bleeps to my middle rod caused me to turn around, the skies in front of us had gone from yellowy grey to black, the storm front could clearly be seen menacing its way over the high ground that looks down on Trentham. As the faint rumbling grew louder the shifting dark bulk began to spit its lightning claws. It was, at this point we decided that a retreat to the car was called for. I wound in my rods, zipped the bivvy shut and dashed to the car. Such was my urgency to get out of the rain and avoid the inevitable storm that I failed to notice the guy ropes stretching across the floor. After a brief trip through the air I met the ground with a thump. I'm not sure what it was that I landed on but after this fall I spent the rest of the night and most of the following day removing small spines from my arms and hands.

Cup of coffee in one hand and chocolate digestive in the other, we sat in the car and watched the awesome forces of nature at work as the storm raged above us. Then, as quickly as it had begun it was gone leaving just a light drizzle in its path and soon the rain had stopped complete and fishing could commence once more. The swims we were fishing from were on the right hand side of the large floating boom that separates the area of the lake that the speedboats and water skiers can use from the top area of the lake where it is fishing only. Not wanting to fish net door to carp anglers, we had accepted that the boats used this area and we may have to wait till dark but after the storm and with the light fading it seemed very unlikely there would be anyone out. How wrong could I be! A lone speedboat appeared on the jetty and within minutes he was tearing up and down the lake sending great washes up the bank in its wake. How, Trentham is a good-sized venue so the boater to whom I will refer to as "Captain Cretin" had, in my mind plenty of room to play with his "toy" without coming anywhere near us but to be on the safe side I pulled my baits into the margins. I did this for two reasons, one to avoid "Captain Cretin" and two, the fish may move into margins to avoid the commotion in the open water. At first "Captain Cretin" was content to razz round the far side of the lake behind the islands, then he wanted more space so came round our side. As he was right out in the lake this was no problem, room for all I thought. Wrong again! Without warning "Captain Cretin" came charging down the margins. My rods crashed together as they were nearly ripped off the pod, one line was cut instantly the other must have caught the propeller as the spool on the second rod was nearly emptied. Mikes second rod was also hit cutting his line as well. For those of you that have ready any of my previous articles you may remember me saying "I enjoy

all my Eel fishing but as my time on the bank is limited I get a little upset when on the majority of my sessions something goes wrong”. So after having both my brand new rods nearly smashed, my lines cut and a spool stripped, I was not best pleased, in fact I was absolutely steaming!!! I could not control the anger boiling up inside me and just exploded into a barrage of profanities. Storming along the bank yelling and waving my arms like a mad man I approached some rather worried looking carp anglers, whose rods I noticed were still out. When I had calmed down enough to explain my psychotic outburst, one of the carp anglers said “should have been using back-leads like we are.” All I can say is that particular carp angler is lucky my rage was still directed toward “Captain Cretin”!

This all happened around 8.00pm, and as I had a nights fishing ahead of me there was nothing I could do but stop swearing, calm down and start sorting out the rods once more. “Where’s the wine?” enquired Mike. “Good idea we’ll have a drink, alcohol will make things all better” says I. “No!” replies Mike, “where is the bloody wine!” I looked to the small clump of reed in which our beverage had been chilling, it was still there, but the wine wasn’t. Now, imagine the following scene in slow motion! One very distressed eel angler jumping into the margins “Noooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!” as he frantically splashes around, feeling for the missing bottle. Then in a hail of triumph thrusts the booze skyward (excaliber style!) much to the delight of his on looking session partner, also in need of a drink. As we began to re-tackle a second boat appeared, this time with water-skiers attached. Mike helped me spool up with fresh line and I soon had new rigs attached. Then it was simply a case of waiting for the daylight to disappear completely until it became so dark our boating friends would either give up or crash into the island. So we stood, cup of wine in hand, watching the “display” of the water-skiers, who, much to our delight frequently fell off.

At last at around 9.00pm the boats were gone and we could finally cast out our baits. All three worm baits positioned we settled back to enjoy a good meal and some more wine. Looking back I can laugh at it all now but at the time I was sure we were in for a crap night. I had said to Mike on the way down that we should get loads of runs to worm baits if the last session I fished at T.G. was anything to go by. So we were a little disappointed not to have had so much as a bleep to any of the rods by 10,00pm. At 10.15 p.m. I had a few bleeps to my middle rod, wandering down to the pod I noticed the bobbin shaking under the reel so unclipped it see what would happen. To be honest I thought the fish would have dropped the bait due to the resistance of the bobbin not dropping off but happily the line slowly started falling off the spool and began slowing moving through the rod rings. Winding down onto the fish until the line was tight I swept the rod back over



My “lucky” 3lb 10ozs

my shoulder and was met by a heavy thumping of a good fish; it had to be an eel. It was! My new rod performed its job perfectly, bringing the fish to the surface, where she swirled gloriously under the light of the head torch “It’s an eel, well done mate!” exclaimed Mike. Everything went to plan during the fight until she reached the margins, was drawn up to the spreader block and the tail over the drawer string you could have forgiven me for thinking it was all over bar the unhooking. Then without warning she flipped herself over the back of the net and went charging off across the shallows dragging the line under the net mesh. I could not believe what was happening, then if it seemed things could not get worse, she managed to pick up the line on the second rod on the pod setting the alarm off in the process. My heart sunk, all I could do is watch as Mike desperately tried to free the line and get the other rod

clear as only my second eel of the year made its escape. “We’re fine,” said Mike. I tightened up

again but deep down I knew the fish was off.

Bang! The rod whacked round and much to our surprise the eel was still hooked, from then on there was only going to be one winner and that was going to be me. Mike did a sterling job with the net and to our relief in she went. She was a big eel and possibly a new personal best, as Mike hoisted her aloft in the sling and making sure the scales faced away from me he asked what my P.B. was. "Four pound" was my reply. "Not quite" was Mike's response. Still, an absolute cracker at 3lb10oz I was one happy (not to mention lucky!) eel angler. The fish was sacked up and placed in the margins to recover. Mike congratulated me and we drank a celebratory cup of wine. I must admit at the time, I was a little worried about the fish, as she had been very docile in the sack.

The rest of the night went well for me, no more eels were caught but I did have a couple more runs and landed two bream around 1 am, a 2.07 and a 2.13. Mike was kept awake most of the night by constant bleeping that failed to materialise into a full-blooded run. Added to this my brief encounter with a drunken carp angler and me squirting myself in the eye with insect repellent, it has to be said the rest of the night was far from dull! Soon it was morning and time for a spot of breakfast before photographing and returning my eel. It soon become apparent that any fears as to the condition of my captive were ill founded as she went berserk as soon as she was out of the sack. I think it took around 7 attempts to calm her down and get a couple of photos, this was not helped my Mike dashing off to strike runs every few minutes but he did manage to land a bream and lost a perch. While photographing the eel two carp anglers looked on (one was the drunk I had met the night before) and we to laugh when one asked, "do eels fight well?" "Better than carp!" I replied.

A week later we were back on the banks of T.G. for one last try. After the previous weeks success expectations were high and we were both buzzing at the thought of another big eel, maybe even a personal best. This time, the ration packs we had munched on the last session were abandoned and Mike cooked us steak in white wine and garlic sauce, accompanied by garlic mushrooms and buttered new potatoes. The traditional one bottle of wine was replaced by two; half of the first one went into the meal anyway! And we sat down to feast. We drank a toast to my 3.10 and sat back to await events. It was a peaceful evening with not a speedboat in sight, nor was there to be any visits from drunken carp anglers. Sadly there was to be no visits from our Anguilla friends either and for the most part, all indicators remained silent and motionless. The night was still with clear skies, the tiny twinkling of the stars may have been nice to look at but with no cloud to keep the warmth in the temperature soon dropped and so did our confidence. The session was a blank with no eels, or any other fish species caught that night, Mike did manage to catch a fine 6 oz specimen but as we don't count fresh water swan mussels we both had to write it down as a blank!

That was the last eel session we fished and a bit of an anti-climax to the season really but never mind, it could have happened. T.G. does hold big eels, of that I am sure, not many eels have been caught but when it has produced Trentham has given us a tantalising glimpse of her hidden treasures. To date, these are a 3.08 to Damien Wood, a 3.09 to Chris Siddall, a 1.00 and 3.11 to Pete Drabble and lastly, at 3.10 to yours truly. Who knows what monsters may lurk within its depths, I know this though, I aim to find out!!

To you all a season of plenty.

SHOCK, HORROR!!

by

Stuart "Spac-E-man" Dean

It was during a conversation with a pike angler that I was told some information that got me more than a little interested in trace wire and to say the least, a little bit worried. I should hope that this article will make most of you think a little but at the very least I am pretty sure that it will continue to fuel the wire, braid and general trace material debate. Most of us fall into one camp or the other. By that I mean, anglers that use wire or anglers that use braids for their hook length, and I am sure that we all have anecdotes to extol the virtues of our chosen material. There are of course members who quite happily use both materials and I have to ask myself do they think that trace material doesn't make any difference, or is it just that they haven't made their minds up yet? Some of the things in this article may make some of you re-think your choice, but in may on the other hand put you more firmly in one camp or the other.

Pete Jensen (the pike angler mentioned) is, in my opinion no ordinary pike angler, but one of vast experience and what he says is well worth listening to. He is an engineer by trade, produces a very good drop off alarm, makes custom traces and has a real understanding of the problems predator anglers encounter. So when he talked about trace wires, I made sure that I listened very carefully.

The first part of our conversation was about the relative abrasion resistance of various wire constructions. These are the facts.

1. Single strand wire is more abrasion resistant than seven-strand wire.
2. Seven-strand wire is more abrasion resistant than multistrand wires (16 or 49 strands).

Common sense really. The smaller the component strands, the easier each strand is to break. Therefore, as each strand breaks the overall strength of the wire is reduced. It's this lack resistance to abrasion that means I don't use braided nylons as a hooklength. Braids are made up of thousands of strands. Each in their own right has a very low breaking strain but put together they combine to provide a higher breaking strength. But as mentioned the smaller the component strand the less resistant it is to abrasion. And to further endorse my choice of wire as a hooklength, nylon and other materials that are used to produce braids are far less resistant to abrasion than metal, which is used to construct wire trace material. So my argument for the use of wire as a hooklength material is based on the facts that braids are made up of component parts that in isolation are less resistant to abrasion and also have a lower breaking strength taken in isolation.

Fact no 2. Multistrand wires are more pliable than seven-strand wires, which in turn are more pliable than single strand wire.

Now I don't think that any of us would argue against the fact that more pliable hook length materials give us a more natural, (better?) bait presentation. So now we have grounds for a split in thoughts between the anglers who use wire. More abrasion resistance (safer) or better presentation. What's your poison?

I don't think there is anything too controversial in the first part of this article but what comes next just might change the way you think about trace wires and might even scare those who use wire as a trace material in conjunction with braid as a reel line.

During my conversation with Pete, he asked me if I had ever tested the shock strength of the wires that I use. Like most anglers I said no and I doubt if there are many or any members of this club who have. All wires carry a breaking strain and this is shown on the packaging. This is in fact the pull strength of the wire. The poundage it will break at, on a straight pull. As wire has no stretch it's resistance to shock is nowhere near it's breaking strain. This is not only due to its lack of stretch but also it's brittleness. If a wire has a breaking strain of 30lb, take a guess now, at its shock strength. I am pretty damn sure that you will be nowhere near. Read on.

The answer is 8 ounces!! Now for those that don't believe me, I conducted a simple but quite extensive experiment on Fox easi-twist wire in 20lb breaking strain and Drennan Soft Strand,

also in 20lb breaking strain. The results are in a table later in this article, but first of all I will describe how the experiment was done.

Each type of wire was made up into 3 different lengths 24-inch, 18-inch and 12-inch and there were three traces of each length to be tested. Each trace was fixed to a door frame, and a weight attached. This weight was then dropped over the length of the trace and repeated with more weight added until such time as the trace snapped. All of these traces had split rings attached at both ends and had been crimped.

Results Table

Wire	Trace length	Drop	No 1	No 2	No 3
Fox easi-twist 20lb	24 inch	24 inch	3 oz	3 oz	3 oz
“ “ “ “	18 inch	18 inch	3 oz	3 oz	3 oz
“ “ “ “	12 inch	12 inch	3 oz	3 oz	3 oz
Drennan Soft Strand 20lb	24 inch	24 inch	3 oz	3 oz	3 oz
“ “ “ “	18 inch	18 inch	3 oz	3 oz	3 oz
“ “ “ “	12 inch	12 inch	3 oz	3 oz	3 oz

I then repeated the whole experiment with the only alteration being that the split rings on the end of each trace were attached by twisting the wire. The results were exactly the same!!

There we have it I use trace wire that breaks consistently at 3 ounces, no matter what the trace length, or the size of the drop. The first question you might ask is “Are you kidding”, and the answer is NO, thirty-six traces couldn’t all tell the same story. The second question you should be asking is where did the trace wire break. This is where there was some difference in the results. The crimped traces broke consistently an inch or so above the crimp at the hook end (does that sound familiar to anyone)? The traces that had been twisted broke every time under the twisted part of the trace. This sometimes happened at the hook end and sometimes on what would be the swivel end of the trace. This proves to me one of two things.

1. Crimping is a safer way of attaching hooks, swivels etc. or
2. I’m rubbish (****) at twisting up my traces.

To be honest this is a very clinical test and in reality only shows wires inability to absorb shock and if we took these results at face value it would be a foolish angler that used wire as a hook length material. In real life fishing situations we have other components of our tackle that will absorb some of the shock for us. These are: -

1. The rod.
2. The reel line.

We all know that braided reel lines have very little or no stretch and therefore they have a limited at best, ability to absorb shock. So anyone that uses braid as a reel line has reduced their tackle’s ability to absorb the lunges and shocks an eel puts on our tackle by at least 50%. I would think that this is even more apparent and risky when fishing at short range, which we all know is something most of us do, most of the time.

After conducting this test I was very surprised and decided to conduct a further experiment that was identical to the first except that the trace lengths were attached to a 24-inch length on monofilament reel line. I’m glad to say that the results were somewhat different, as the table below shows.

Results table

Wire	Trace length	Drop	No 1	No 2	No 3
Fox easi-twist 20lb	24 inch	24 inch	36 oz +	36 oz +	36 oz +
“ “ “ “	18 inch	18 inch	36 oz +	36 oz +	36 oz +
“ “ “ “	12 inch	12 inch	36 oz +	36 oz +	36 oz +
Drennan Soft Strand 20lb	24 inch	24 inch	36 oz +	36 oz +	36 oz +
“ “ “ “	18 inch	18 inch	36 oz +	36 oz +	36 oz +
“ “ “ “	12 inch	12 inch	36 oz +	36 oz +	36 oz +

Now this made me feel a lot happier. For a start you will notice that after every result there is a + sign. This denotes that 36 oz was the heaviest weight I tried and it had still not managed to snap the trace material (To be honest I couldn't fit any more weights on to the trace). This shows that by using monofilament as a reel line it increases the ability of trace wires to absorb shock by a minimum of 1200%. If we then add in the rods ability to absorb shock I am sure that we increase even further our tackles ability to absorb the lunges of any eel.

As I said earlier if I was using a braid as a reel line I would be slightly more concerned. Because of the braids lack of ability to absorb shocks it seems to me that it could cost its user an eel of a lifetime. This is a risk that I am not prepared to take. I know that the members who do use braid, introduce into there set ups a length of power gum to act as a shock absorber, but in my opinion this defeats a lot of the object of using braid in the first place. Still each to their own and I do know that braid has distinct advantages in certain situations. Far be it from me to tell members what line and trace material to use, but at least you are now aware that our hooklengths are potentially the weakest link in our tackle.

THE CHAIRMANS REPORT

by

Nick “the eeling hedgehog” Rose.

Well here it is my first chairman's report. I would like to start with a huge thank you to Kevin Huish, our old chairman (That's not old as decrepit old but passed chairman, there again it could fit, soz Kev). He has been in the club since Feb 1988 and in the Chair since 1991. In that period he has also been treasurer for 3 years, membership sec for nine years regional organizer for South Wales and records officer for 5 years. All of these posts he excelled in, only giving them up because of work load more than anything, except the membership sec where in the melee of a very long stormy meetings at the Reservoir pub in 1998, we over looked asking him if he wanted to carry on and elected someone else. He has also during this time and before, been on the NASA committee and attended meetings, took the NASA stand all over the country and recently for a few years, organized the NASA conferences along with Steve Richo.

In the last few years since that meeting at the Reservoir Pub 1998 every AGM has, it seems, been very contentious. I won't go into all the problems, as most of you know them and those that don't can ask me, or any member who has attended and we will fill you in on the details. During all this time, Kevin kept us all in order with his usual calm way and when things got rough he came out with some wonderful statements that calmed the room down immediately, mainly because no one could understand a word he said, still it worked a treat (Soz again Kev)

This last year things have reached a head in the club and at the last AGM many things were heard and commented on, (again if you don't know read the minutes or ask one of the members who were present). The most important thing in my opinion was the scathing remarks put on paper and subsequently read out at the meeting about the man himself, Kevin. Everyone in the room to a man / woman / child dismissed them with the contempt they deserved and through all this Kevin

stayed calm and composed. Underneath he was deeply hurt and angry, but in keeping with the last ten years carried on with his job up to the end.

He stated he would not accept any life, honorary membership or a nomination for another post given in thanks, but would still remain active behind the scenes and maybe when he was suitably rested come back and take up another position. The sooner the better I say.

The meeting lasted far too long, but things needed sorting and in the rush to get you all home, I as the new chairman pushed on with the remaining agenda very quickly and did not say thanks to Kevin or honour his achievements. A big apology Kev, I hope you will forgive me.

As for the club it seems that we should have things sorted now and we can go on from here a stronger unit, although you should attend the next AGM because nothing surprises me and something else is bound to crop up.

The clubs new constitution was voted on and accepted at the AGM and although it was scrutinized by most of the committee we expect to have missed something. The Constitution will be tinkered with and altered a few times no doubt to cover all situations, so have a read when you get a copy and put us right, we are all fallible.

It was also decided to have a witness scheme to elevate any problems with bogus eel reporting. This is not a slight on any current member, just a guarantee that the clubs trophies go to a genuinely big eel in the future. Also it is a criterion of membership that we send in our catch returns at the end of the club year. This is not a big deal to you, but as a club we must start getting back into investigating our quarry again. One of the members is looking at feeding triggers, so a list of all your sessions, catches and importantly blanks, will help in compiling the statistics, making the survey a lot more genuine and accurate. He could do with a few thousand returns to balance out the statistics, mind you he would then have no time to fish himself. Seriously though, we do need your catch returns.

I used to joke with Kevin that he had the dreaded chairman's disease again, after yet another phone call of woe, with illness, work, family problems, and a multitude of other things that stopped him from going fishing. This is no joke as I now have the same problems. You all must know I am a single man now and able to go off fishing 7 nights a week. Well its not the case, I have started this year doing less fishing than at any other time in my life. I hope things are better with you all out there. I have caught just the one eel so far at 3lb 10oz, still it's a good average and up till this week I am in front of Barry McConnell, it will soon change no doubt. The biggest I know of is an eel of 4lb 15oz from the Grand Union caught by Nick Duffy, well done Nick (Nice Name).

I went on a night session with Graham Wilkes and managed another blank, Graham lost a big eel after a 2 minute fight and was truly gutted, especially as he had endured some 16 blanks on this water after his eel last year of 5lb. Still it did the trick and he is all fired up again.

News reaches of the sad death of one of the NAC old boys, Ernie Orme. He was a member when I joined the NAC, but due to ill health left the club as he could no longer put in the hours on the bank to warrant being a member (his words not mine). I believe Brian is going to write a piece on him, so I won't go into details of his angling life, but just send mine and the clubs condolences to his family.

I will finish off this page by saying to the members something that I have said so many times over the last 4 or 5 years. We are in a fishing club and we are not running the United Nations. Yes, things are important but not that important. This is supposed to be enjoyed, not end up as confrontation. Any problems can be overcome if we talk rationally, so lets enjoy.

Well I am off now, I hope I have not bored you with all this, tight lines and all that.

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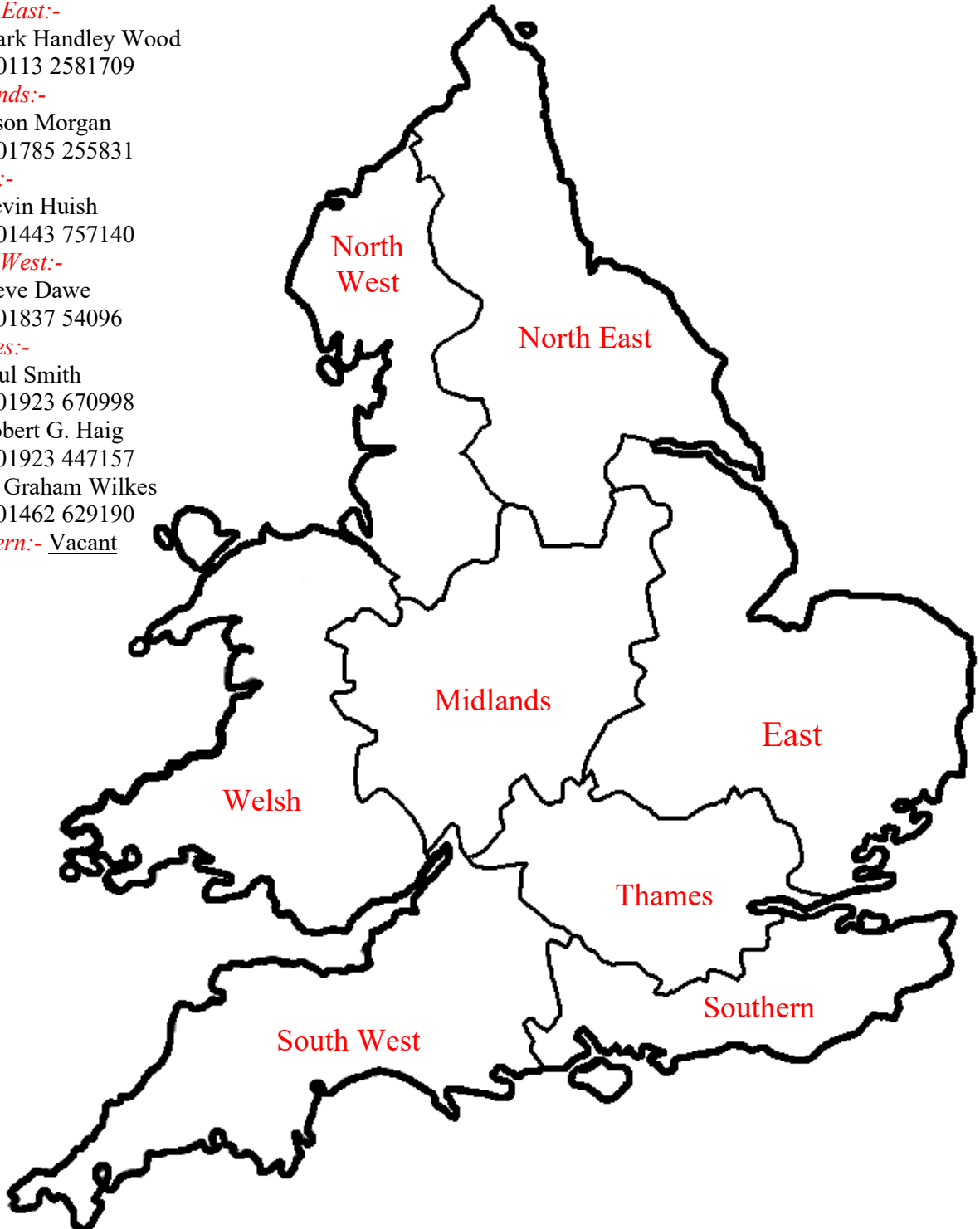
Mr Robert G. Haig

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East:- Graham Wilkes

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Southern:- Vacant



IT'S STILL COLD OUT HERE IN THE WILDERNESS.

by
Steve "Dances with eels" Richardson.

May 1st brought the trip to renew the membership card for the water I am to be targeting this season. Last year the water gave up a 3lb 15oz eel to my rods in September and it fell to one of my preferred baits as well, this being a dead-bait section. My confidences high, I have spent the winter looking forward to spending my time on the banks of my new 'home' come the spring onwards.

Foot and Mouth put the kybosh on the early start through February, March and April due to the closing down of nearly 90% of the lakes access but May brought about more of the lake being opened up to 'anglers only' due to considerable dialog between the Estate Manager, the Local Council, the Fishery Manager and the surrounding Riparian Landowners. In the end only one small bank length has been denied the anglers who fish the venue to date, justifiable so, in my opinion as well.

I had decided to wait until the talks were over between the afore mentioned personnel before deciding to select another alternate venue for my eel fishing. This applied a slight pressure to my normal plan of action when choosing a water for my seasons fishing, as the time scale on the talks was being dragged out by the Local Council. However, I couldn't resist a starter session on the lake and made a decision to fish a Friday night just to get my head around night fishing again for eels after the winters carping sessions. March 29th 2001 saw me firmly ensconced in a swim I had not fished before, all the rods were sitting on the rod-rests and all that was needed were some small fish for bait sections. Swishing brought about a blank in the many areas I dipped the net into and as night finally enveloped me, I was left with only five fry sized roach, ½" long at best, as my total bait store for the session. I decided to put two baits on each hook and to go looking for some worms to bait the third rod, now that it was completely dark. The night was very cool and a decent wind was blowing about and so no lobs were about, this left me turning stone after stone looking for some smaller redworms and after an hour I had about ten small worms as well to swell my bait larder. I remember sitting on the bedchair after the baits were in the water and thinking "I should be more organised than this, bloody hell I have been eel fishing too long to be enduring sessions like this". Anyway, the pressure applied to the session of insufficient bait before the session started was not warranted because once again I was off the mark with a blank.

However, that wasn't going to become a millstone around my neck. I had done my first session, realised a few points to take on board and also remembered a few items of gear that were needed when eeling but not when carping. I decided there and then not to go on the lake until more of the lake was opened up, so as not to make the journey there a lottery over the few swims that were available. So the season on my new water would start later than normal for me but taking into consideration that I have endured the past two seasons fishing venues that never coughed up an eel to my rods and a winter of discontent on issues within the club that have now been discussed and hopefully sorted out at the AGM held on March 18th 2001, I was more than happy to be out doing what attracted me to our beloved club in the first place...eel fishing.

Now when I am stuck for my eel fishing, I invariably turn to the phone and look to place the onus on someone else to get my frustration of not fishing back on track, the fingers pressed the buttons on the phone.....0121....calling Birmingham International Rescue Man.... and a session was agreed on the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal with 'The Eeling Hedgehog'. The 28th April saw me arrive in the 2nd great metropolis of England, in a quiet suburb called Erdington!!!!

Spike took me to eight spots on the course of the canal, from the middle of Brum out to the outskirts. (That part of the land we others call the countryside.) It was down to me to choose the actual venue for the session but quite how to choose would be another issue. Each spot was about 20 yards from a fast food outlet....would I choose between KFC, McDonalds, Fish 'n' Chips, Tandoori, Thai, The Country Pub, Burger King or Traditional Indian?????.....Being 'Anglo

Saxon' I decided on the Country Pub venue and to our credit we managed to steer clear of the delights of the inside of the establishment and roughed it on the canal bank with tuna and corned beef sarnies and flasks of hot chocolate and coffee.

Interestingly, this venue is also the spot where Spike swished his best ever eel of 3.14 whilst trying to gather some bait together a couple of years ago.....Spike informed me that he and Andrew had managed some nice eels from this area over the years and, in keeping with this information, we both blanked out in fine style.

May 5th saw me once again back at my chosen lake, 'Dingo Puddle', and enjoying the delights of not having anyone else but anglers walking around the place. (Due to the F&M, only special permission had been granted to anglers by the debating committee, Joe Public were not allowed on the site.) This suited my style of fishing no end, the margins are always a good bet on any water.....quite often the best bet.

I decided on the 3.15 swim (2nd tree swim) and positioned my three baits in well thought out spots (well I thought they were well thought out) and awaited the pull of the clip and the sweet sound of the Delkim set on No.1 on the volume switch. Nothing happened all night and I was looking at my 5th eel blank since the end of last season.....no worries though, I know they are in here for definite. (That voice in our head gets louder doesn't it, once the blanks start to mount up!)

On the Sunday morning, 7th May, a call from Spike gave me the news that he had gone and had a 3.10 from his water on lobworms. As ever, I was real chuffed for him. I knew it would be only a matter of time before the phone call from Spike would herald the news of a much bigger eel to his rods given the water he is fishing.....a 3.10 in the bag and the whole season to go, now THAT breeds confidence.

In between all this eel fishing time, there are other issues that have to be addressed by the committee of the NAC. One such distraction is the attendance at SACG meetings. These have now become SAA meetings since the merger between NASA and SACG. On May 13th there was to be the inaugural meeting of the 'Specialist Anglers Alliance' and Spike, Spac-e-man and I were the designated team to turn up and represent the NAC position. As is our wont on such occasions we decided to go eel fishing the night before and 'bond' before attending the meeting the following morning. Young Andrew Rose decided to give us the pleasure of his company over this session and so this added pressure to the catching stakes for us oldies. (Sorry Stu!)

So on May 12th a gathering took place on Welham Lake in Leicestershire, a venue that was not too far away from the SAA meeting place at Six Hills in Leicestershire. (45 minutes as the crow flies) Spike and Andrew made their way to the lake for 5.00pm and Spac-e-man and I were at my house awaiting their appearance at the same designated time slot. A phone call from Spike at 5.15pm sorted out the confusion and Stu and I made our way over to the lake and arrived at 6.15pm to find the place just filling up with anglers. Andrew had been busy catching some baits for us all to use.....Stu and I having turned up without any bait yet again, thus relying on Spike to supply us with the stuff that is needed to allow us to fish at all. (We do thank you Spike).



"Perfect" Stuart's 3lb-03ozs

Spike and Andrew had secured the two swims that, to my past knowledge, were real potential winners and the Spac-e-man and I had to toss for the choice of either side swims. I lost the toss and the Spac-e-man chose the other side of Spike, whilst I had to put up with the duffer swim once again. A very enjoyable night session was shared by the four of us and come the morning the results were just about how 'William Hills' would have placed it. Andrew had two eels of 2lb 0oz

and 2lb 2oz. (The 2.02 came to a live bait fished legered on the bottom, in the margin.) The Spaceman had a 3lb 4oz which took a roach-head section in a very tentatively manner. I blanked out but had a gudgeon live bait decapitated on the take during the middle of the night and Spike managed to blank out as well. Both of us took the stance that we were allowing our guests to catch what going eels there were around....its just the way we are I am afraid.



***“Siamese Twins”, Social Officer Stuart Dean
& Chairman Nick Rose.***

that the baiters were impossible to catch for some unknown reason. Using lobworms can be slightly traumatic due to the attentions of unwanted fish of other species taking a liking to them. At other times you can be lead to thinking that perhaps there are no other fish in the waters you are fishing when using them.

This time was one of those ‘no fish present’ times until 3.30am when the rods went crazy. Every tench in the lake must have been in the area and between then and 5.30am I took seven tench to 7lb 1oz and a jack pike of about 3-4lb’s. However, in the middle of all this tench activity I hooked and then lost something that obviously wasn’t a tench. Gut instinct told me that I had just managed to lose my first eel of the season and it appeared to be a half decent one at that.....however, it all adds up to one thing, I had endured yet another blank session.

May 25th, ‘Dingo Puddle’....England V Mexico.

England 4 – Mexico 0.

Dingo Puddle 4 – ‘Dances’ 0.

Dead baits were used on all rods and when I wound them in at breakfast time they were still there, still dead and very much unmolested.

A week in Cyprus sunbathing on the beach, swimming in the sea, drinking pints of Keo in the restaurant and pub and Bacardi and Coke on the veranda at night saw my batteries re-charged and on June 8th I was back on ‘Dingo Puddle’ looking for some revenge. Dead baits were once again used...I had just endured a huge lobworm kill and the weather was not conducive to going out and replacing the lost couple of hundred. (When it next rains with a vengeance, I am out to re-fill my worm container, as I believe that at least one rod should be baited with worms on this water now that I have lost a goodish eel on this bait.)

This session was best remembered for my inability to select a swim for the first hour...shall I go there, or there, or there or there????????????.....In the end I went there and blanked out big style. Nothing but liners from the carp and tench.

This weekend sees me back there for more of the same...however, I am enjoying the sessions, blank or no blank, due to KNOWING that there are eels in there. I am happy to be blanking rather than picking up smaller eels (Under 3’s) because I know that I am getting nearer to

The results of the photo session in the morning should prove interesting for the club notice board, given the faces at the SAA meeting when we turned up later that morning. We all had some slime on us and the room was very, very warm by the mid afternoon. (Thank god they had tuna sarnies on the buffet!!)

May 19th saw me back at ‘Dingo Puddle’ with the usual confidence brimming....and this time I had some bait with me, lots of big juicy lobworms. I set up just away from the 2nd tree swim and decided to fish lobworms on all three rods....a decision made easier due to the fact

getting that one fish that I crave. That one eel that tops 4lb 14oz. This lake will give me a new target to beat, it has the fish to do so swimming about in its waters. Time will tell whether, when my chance comes, I can convert it to a photo on the bank.

I decided to write this piece so that the newer members to our club (And a big welcome to you all) could see that those of us who are supposedly able to do the bizz are just as fallible as the next eel angler.

Some would say that it is an honest assessment of my angling ability, to those I say..... "Thanks for the company on those extra sessions away from 'Dingo Puddle'.....They are times I shall always remember, even if the eels do not show up to my rods".

Today is June 10th.....Stuart allowed me write something for this magazine at short notice. I wanted to have something included in it which wasn't about 'how to do this' or 'this is how to be a successful eel angler'. I wanted to submit a small piece, which would probably reflect how many of the members season is going at this moment in time. I also wanted to have an article that encompassed the true meaning of being an eel angler....never knowing when the result will come along but looking forward to the next session whatever the last one gave us. (As an example, Spike turned up at his water a few weeks ago, slightly late due to some occurrence or other and missed getting the swim he wanted by 5 minutes. He fished next to this swim and duly landed, weighed and photographed a 4lb 10oz eel for the chap who beat him to the swim earlier in the evening. I am sure that he was a little gutted to have been dealt that particular twist but he also showed why he is such a true eel angler.... his ability to share and enjoy another eel anglers result without malice.) (I should hate to think what the reaction would have been if it had been a carp angler who had lost out to Spike in the swim stakes and spike had done a '20' from it.)

I hope that those of you who have started the season off as well as me, will retain the positive attitude towards the next session.....who knows what could turn up. Here's to the rest of the season and to your successes.

This magazine is dedicated to the memory of the late Ernie Orme. I never met Ernie but I have been led to believe that he was a dedicated, caring, sharing and generous ex-member of our great eel club. He was always there to help other members whilst he was amongst our ranks. I know that he was proud to have been a member of the NAC and I know that he was regarded with high respect from his fellow members. Sadly he has passed away before our 40th year celebrations commenced next year. This magazine is our mark of respect to him and the time he spent with us, as a fellow eel angler and a gentleman. He will be sadly missed.

ARCHIVE ARTICLES

Jim Gibbinson was a founder member of the National Anguilla Club in July of 1964, one of a group of eight that included our current President Arthur J Sutton, George Moss, John Larty, Neil, Game, Jack Bellamy, Jack Smith and Keith Dickens. He remained a member for many years until he left in the 1980's. He is now famous for his writing about carp and carp fishing, but he was a prolific writer in the sixties on eels. This article is taken from the September 1969 issue of "Fishing" and although the article is titled "Long-Range Eels" he deals with some of the issues that are still of interest to us some 32 years later i.e. daytime eel fishing and when to strike an eel run.

We on the production team would like some suggestions as to who you would like to see articles by in this section. So far the team has chosen the author and article for the Archive bit, but it would be nice if someone could suggest an author and we could then go and find an article. Anyone with any suggestions can get in touch with either myself, Jimmy or Damian and we can get onto searching out the articles that you want to see.

Jim Gibbinson sets his sights on...

LONG-RANGE EELS

(and takes nine three-pounders at a sitting)

With the temperature in the eighties and a breeze about as cool as an oven blast, I was tempted to pull my cap down over my eyes, lie down on my bed-chair and go to sleep. Then I had a better idea – I'd try to pull out a few eels. And before many minutes had passed I'd rigged a running paternoster end tackle, baited with lobworm and was poised ready to cast.

I decided to drop the bait where, before the reservoir filled, the old stream bed used to be. It would have to be a long one, and judging from the amount of line left on the spool of the Mitchell after I'd cast, I reckoned my bait must be more than 80 yds. away. If it wasn't in the stream bed, it wouldn't be far from it.

Twenty minutes or so later my buzzer sounded. It didn't take many seconds for the eel to run the last few yards off the spool, and then when I had only half-a-dozen turns left I closed the bale, let the eel point me, then I ran back and struck. The line hummed in the breeze in a most satisfying manner, and the rod bucked in response to the plunges of the eel, plunges transmitted along 100 yds. of taut monofil.

That eel weighed 3lb. I didn't bother to weigh any of the others. Some were a little larger, some a bit smaller, and in all I had nine of them. I won't bother to recount any of the details, because each capture was a carbon copy of the one before – the long cast, the fast run, the long process of pumping-in the fish. After I'd beached the ninth, I'd had enough. At first it had been fun. Then I'd

continued because I was hopeful for a big one. Then I'd had enough.

Doubtless I could have continued catching them, and had I stayed until dark my score would almost have certainly topped a dozen, perhaps 15 – but who the heck needs a catch of 15 3-lb. eels! It's a paradox, isn't it? When the fish are contrary, we fish ourselves silly. When it's easy, we get fed-up and bored. Had the eels been more elusive I probably would have stayed until darkness fell – and perhaps I'd have had my big one. The reservoir concerned has produced some real lunkers. Weights? Well suffice to say that it's produced a few that would up the record by a pound or two.

Although I was fishing at 80 yds. plus, I don't think it was the distance that mattered directly. The distance was important only insofar as it put my bait in deep water. The reservoir, like so many others, has gently sloping sides. Thus, the further you cast, the deeper you fish, and in the particular instance I have recounted there was the extra deep area – the old stream bed – which I made my target.

I was fishing in some 30-ft. or so, it being necessary to fish at that range and at that depth to get any runs at all. My companion, fishing just 10 yds. or so from me, was casting a little short of the deepest water, and, almost undoubtedly for that reason, had only one eel.

Daytime eel fishing is generally best done in deep water. Yes, I know you can take big eels in shallow water in daylight, as

Edwin Grant recounted last month. I once had a five-pounder in water just a little over 18 in. deep. In fact, the water was so shallow that when I struck, the eel's tail came out of the water and described a slow circle before sinking back in the green murk again – for all the world like the Lady of the Lake waving Excalibur! Then I had a four-pounder from 3 ft. or so at sunrise one morning, and another just short of 4 lb. from a couple of feet of water during the course of a hot, sunny, August afternoon. Despite these instances, however, the many others that are reported every summer, I reckon deep water provides the most consistent catches during the day, particularly when the sun is high and bright.

Deep-water eeling at long range presents quite a few problems – nothing exceptionally troublesome, but just difficult enough to provide an extra bit of interest. To start with there's the problem of getting the bait where you want it. Above-average distances can be achieved by the simple expedient of moulding a dollop of mud round the bait, but really long distances are best achieved with an Arlesey bomb rigged running paternoster style. I find the 1oz. size the most useful, though much depends on the wind and bait.

Deadbaits cast best if the fins are trimmed off, and I doubt if the bait loses any of its attractiveness for that. Worms, however, are a little more of a problem. It soon becomes apparent that the classic 'couple of times through the middle' method won't work. The force needed to bang a bait out 80 yds. tears the hook from it almost every time. I find it best to thread the head of the worm on the shank of the hook – the way a sea angler mounts a lugworm – and then thread the tail of the worm on the bend. The main body of the worm hangs down in a loop. If that sounds unlikely to work, I suggest you try it – you'll be surprised.

Its usefulness isn't confined to eel fishing. I first worked it out for long-range bream fishing in the Walthamstow Reservoirs when I was in my teens. I've subsequently used it for long-range carp. A further advantage of this method of baiting-up is that the worm can't bury itself in the bottom. I'm surprised I've never seen it recommended in

print, because there must be hundreds of anglers who know the dodge. However, I had to work it out for myself, and everyone I've showed it to seems to think it's a good idea and expressed surprise that they'd never heard of it before. So I leave it with you to try if it is new to you.

Another problem concerns drag. The sub-surface drag on 80 yds. of line can be quite considerable – certainly strong enough to pull line steadily from the open spool of the reel. You'll find, too, that dodges employing bits of silver paper on stones are less successful than you'd expect. I like to use a buzzer for eeling. It allows me to let my concentration wander, and I can have a read or natter to a mate.

It's all very casual, this eeling, you see. Of course, there was a time when I would have raised my arms in horror at the suggestion that the eeler might have a cat-nap now and again! I used to sit there concentrating like mad. I don't recollect the "grim determination" bit resulting in any more big eels, though! Anyway, I like to use a buzzer, so that means I have to control the line t'other side of the buzzer. If the silver-paper stone dodge between butt ring and reel is used, the drag on the line can pull the antenna over on even its "coarsest" setting.

Those who've never fished at really long range won't fully appreciate the strength of this sub-surface drag, but those who have fished big, deep reservoirs and pits at long range will know exactly what I am talking about. I've found the best solution is one I use when fishing anchored crust for carp. To overcome the crust's tendency to rise to the surface, I tie a little link swivel to the buzzer rest. The line is nicked in the spring link. Then, when the carp picks up the bait and moves off, the line is pulled from the link and is free to run out in the normal manner. This works just as well as a means of counteracting sub-surface drift.

Setting the hook can be something of a problem, too. You have to resist the temptation to strike in the normal manner. It's best to let the eel pull the line really taut, and then to walk or run backwards and strike on a really tight line. Using this method, it's

quite possible to lip hook an eel even with 100 yds. of line out.

As to tackle, well I use 10 ft. hollow-glass rod (the sama as I use for most of my carp fishing) mounted with a Mitchell with its

The 10 lb. line might worry those who've heard blood-curdling stories about the eel's fighting ability. Forget it. Eels are over-rated fighters. I've probably been present at the capture of more eels up to 5 lb. or so than have most people, and eels of this weight hooked on the sort of tackle I've described, merely mildly interfere with the process of pumping them in. Bigger eels I don't know about – I've never had one. Perhaps their fight acquires characteristics that make them disproportionately more difficult to handle, although that doesn't seem a very reasonable assumption to make.

I'm writing now of eels hooked in open water. Those hooked among weeds or snags are a very different problem. They don't fight any better, but they can, of course, hold on to anything they can get their tail

shallow spool (the line lays beautifully on those shallow spools, and comes off very smoothly) and 100 yds. of fine monofil (the shallow spool will just hold 100 yds. of 10 lb. fine-diameter monofil).

around. The only eels that have ever given me anything approaching trouble have been hooked in this sort of situation. I rather doubt if the eel yet swims that couldn't be successfully landed on 10 lb. line in open water.

In fact, some of the long-range/deep-water eels I've hooked have fought so poorly that as I've been winding them in I've thought "It's gone, no it hasn't, yes it has.....". Consequently, I'm puzzled when I hear stories of eels that have been hooked in open water yet nonetheless zig-zag irresistibly backwards until the reel is emptied and the line has broken. Yes. I've had the occasional scrapper take a yard or two now and again, but all the real fighters that I've hooked while I've been fishing have proved to be pike!



Jim Gibbinson with a catch of nine eels in the 3lb class taken in one afternoon.

CLUB FISH-INS 2001.

First of all let me apologise for the lack of fish ins this year. Unfortunately due to the Foot and Mouth crisis some of the originally planned trips have had to be cancelled. Even as I write this F & M continues to rear its ugly head with the recent fresh outbreaks in Cheshire and on the Lancashire/Yorkshire border around the Settle and Clitheroe area and in Somerset.

With the help of Graham Wilkes we have managed to arrange one club trip onto Rocla Lake near Great Linford. We are 99.9% sure that this fish-in will go ahead as planned. This will be the only National Club trip for this year, but Robert Haig has a regional fish-in planned for September. Give Robert a call on **01923 447157** for further details. I hope to see as many of you as possible on the two trips that have been arranged for this year.

27th, 28th, 29th July 2001.

**Rocla Lake, Linford Fisheries, Great Linford
nr Newport Pagnell.**

Cost: - £20 per person.(£10 per night)

When you arrive go to the clubhouse and phone Graham on his mobile **07710 620988**, who will open the gate and let you onto the lake.

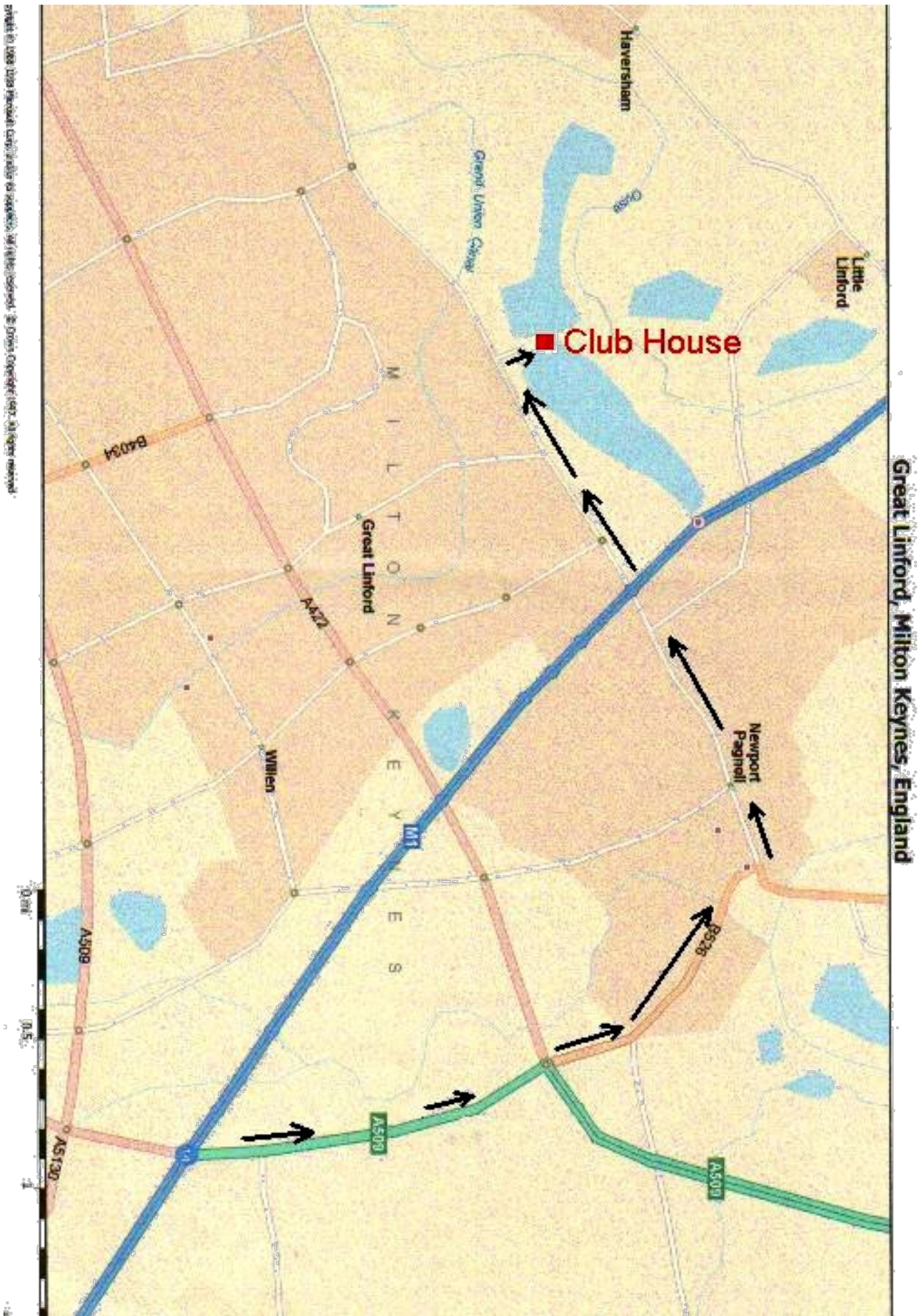
If you have any problems or need further information contact either Stuart on

0151 474 0308

Or Graham on his mobile

Leave the M1 at Junction 14 and take the first left off the roundabout onto A509. Continue until you come to a roundabout and take the second exit (straight on) onto B526. This road takes you into Newport Pagnell where you take a left turn. Follow this road until it splits. Take the left-hand road which goes under the Motorway. Continue on this road until you can follow the signs for The Marle Inn.

HOW TO GET THERE.



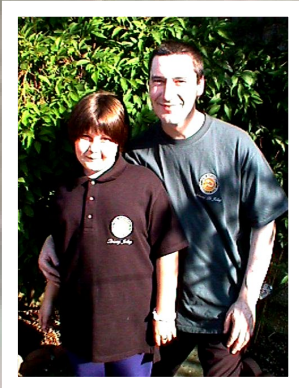
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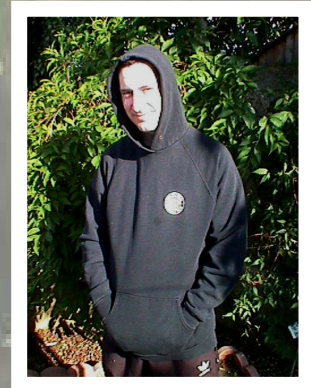
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****NEW** Enamel Eel Badge.....price £3-00p Plus Postage of 26p**



Enamel Club Badge



Enamel Club Badge

*** When ordering, please state Size, Colour and any Extras on the order you send with a cheque for the full amount, plus postage. No order will be processed without written confirmation plus a cheque for the full amount payable (a waiting period may be experienced due to the manufacturer needing a minimum of 6 items to process an order. I shall advise when orders are sent to me as to the time period before processing can commence). Please don't forget, any spelling mistakes on your behalf CANNOT be rectified after the garment as been embroidered, as it can not be un-picked. ***

Record Officers Report, October (00) – June(01). By Jimmy Jolley.

Well once again we're at the start of another season and as usual things are a little slow, what with the bad weather some of us have endured over the last few months and not forgetting the recent Foot & Mouth epidemic which has seen some of our favourite venues closed for long periods. Some members are still facing restrictions on their usual waters and are now looking for replacements to fish until the crisis is over, so good luck to them in their search.

Although this is invariably a slow time of the year, I have still received the usual monthly catch returns from the members who fish for eels throughout the year, and I take this opportunity to thank them personally for their vigilance and thoughtfulness in informing me of their progress and results, Thanks Guys !!!! it's much appreciated.

So, on with this short report of the eel captures reported to me so far.....



Steve Dawe with his Upper Tamar 3lb - 08ozs eel.

Last year **Steve Dawe** found a "new" water that showed a great deal of potential having "thrown up" an eel of over 7lb, (as usual, to a carp angler). At the moment Steve is only allowed to fish it during the day, but has still managed to bag a few nice eels, this venue has been named "The Arches" by Steve.

On the 5th October Steve landed eels of **2lb – 08ozs** to worm (11-45a.m), **2lb – 10ozs** to Roach live bait (12 – 30p.m), **1lb – 12ozs** (01-30p.m) and **1lb – 08ozs** (02-00p.m) both to worm baits, **3lb – 10ozs** (04-00p.m) and **2lb – 12ozs** (05-30p.m) again to Roach live bait. On the 20th he took eels of **2lb – 08ozs** (2-00p.m) on Roach live bait, **1lb – 08ozs** (06-45p.m) on worm, and **1lb – 04ozs** (07-00p.m) again Roach livey was the preferred bait. And on the 22nd, while fishing the Bude Canal, Steve had an eel of **2lb – 00ozs** (09-30p.m) which again fell to Roach live bait. On to April, on the 1st at Hogsbrook Lake he took eels of **8ozs** (05-45p.m) and **1lb – 00** (08-30p.m) to ledgered worms. On the 2nd he had a **1lb – 04oz** (03-30a.m) and **2lb – 10ozs** (06-30a.m) and on the 7th, Steve had an eel of **2lb – 04** (10-00p.m) all took ledgered live baits. Then on the 29th at Upper Tamar he netted eels of **3lb – 08ozs** (01-40a.m) and **2lb – 05ozs** (05-00a.m) again using ledgered live baits. May 25th when fishing Stafford Moor he managed eels of **1lb – 08ozs** (08-15p.m), **1lb – 04** (09-00p.m), **2lb – 08ozs** (10-30p.m) and **1lb – 04ozs** (11-00p.m), all of these eels fell to ledgered lobs. June found Steve fishing Stafford Moor where he took eels of **2lb – 00oz** (9-00p.m) on Lob worms, **2lb – 04ozs** (10-30p.m) and **1lb – 10ozs** (01-30a.m) to Roach live baits. And on the 23rd, whilst fishing a short afternoon session on Upper Tamar Steve had 10 runs resulting in eels of **3lb – 05ozs** (02-45p.m), **2lb – 07ozs** (03-30p.m) and **2lb – 12ozs** (05-30p.m), these three eels took Roach live baits and all Steve fish were caught on ledger tactics.



Nick Duffy's 4lb – 15ozs eel.

On the 30th May **Nick Duffy** had a superb eel of **4lb – 15ozs** (00-10a.m.) from the Grand Union Canal using a ledger rig baited with a live Roach.

Steve Pitts as usual as sent me monthly reports and on the 6th October from W.W. Pit had an eel of **1lb - 09ozs** (03-10p.m) on Roach tail. And on the 23rd a fish of **2lb - 08ozs** (06-16p.m) fell to Lobworm bait again from W.W. Pit.

On the 4th November fishing Brewers Pit Steve took an eel of **1lb - 04ozs** (09-45p.m).

Steve's next eels came from W.W. Pit on the 31st March, the first was an eel of **2lb - 12ozs** (10-45p.m) and **1lb - 10ozs** (11-55p.m) both fish fell to Sardine head baits.

6th April found Steve on W. Waters where he had an eel of **1lb - 12ozs** (03-00a.m) on Roach tail. On the 12th, he caught an eel of **2lb - 12ozs** (03-30p.m) again on Roach tail and on the 21st, from the same venue he took an eel of **2lb - 15ozs** using off-bottom worms.

And on the 11th May whilst fishing Woodlands Steve netted eels of **2lb - 02ozs**, **2lb - 13ozs**, **3lb - 10ozs**, **1lb - 14ozs**, and **3lb - 12ozs** all these eels were taken on Roach baits. On the 18th & 19th eels of **2lb - 00ozs**, **1lb - 07ozs**, **2lb - 04ozs** and **1lb - 14ozs** were taken on Roach section, again from Woodlands.

Mark Smethurst managed a new personal best eel of **4lb - 11ozs** (11-30p.m) at 38 inches x 8½ inches on the 30th May from the L&L Canal using a ledger rig baited with a small Roach live bait and also took an eel of **3lb - 05ozs** (03-30a.m) on the same rig and bait, (well done mate!!!)

While fishing at "Knobhole" Res' (I'm almost sure that this is one of Nick's infamous made-up names he gives some of the venues he fisheswell I sincerely hope it is !!!!) on the 9th May, **Nick Rose** caught an eel of **3lb - 10ozs** (01-45p.m) at 37¼ inches x 7 inches.

Stuart Dean has had an eel of **3lb - 04ozs** from Wilham Lake (See Steve Richardson's article on page 32.) whilst fishing with Steve "Dances" Richardson, Nick "Eeling Hedgehog" Rose & **Andrew Rose**. Andrew also had eels of **2lb - 00ozs** and **2lb - 02ozs**.

Steve "Dances" Richardson has been keeping me informed of his progress this season Steve's managed to get in 9 eeling sessions (11 nights), unfortunately Steve's not had any eels so far (but did take Tench to 7lb - 01ozs), but knowing Steve he will persist in his quest to land a large eel this season (and if anyone deserves a beast, Steve does).



"Thunderbirds are Go!!!"
Stuart, Nick & Andrew with
eels of 3lb - 04oz, 2lb - 02oz
& 2lb - 00oz from Welham

John Davis has had a relatively slow start to his season (like quite a few of us!), but John still managed a nice eel of **4lb - 05ozs** (6-25a.m) at 37½ inches x 8¼ inches from a Midlands Stillwater on the 15th May. The previous evening (14th May) he landed an eel of **1lb - 09ozs** (2-10a.m). And on the 21st John took an eel of **1lb - 11ozs** (00-40a.m) again from a Midlands Stillwater. All of John's eels fell to ledgered Lamprey sections.



John Davis' 4lb - 05oz
Eel.

While fishing a Midlands Canal on the 30th May **Jason Morgan** had an eel of **1lb - 12ozs** (12 - 00 midnight). And on the 20th June from another Midlands Canal Jason took eels of **2lb - 10ozs** (10-40p.m) and **14ozs** (10-50p.m), all Jason's eels fell to ledger rig fished Roach heads.

Relatively new member, **Clifford Clark** as sent me a list of eel captures that I requested, they are as follows. On the 12th May from the L&L Canal Cliff took eels of **1lb – 00oz** (08-00pm) and **1lb – 02ozs**. 19th he had an eel of **3lb – 08ozs** (12-45p.m) again from the L&L. On the 20th fishing the Lancaster Canal he had a **1lb – 10ozs** (10-00p.m) , on the 22nd a fish of **1lb – 12ozs** (12-00 midnight), on the 24th a **1lb – 08ozs** (10-30p.m) again from the Lancaster Canal. Then on the 26th at a local clay pit Cliff took an eel of **2lb – 00oz** (10-15p.m). And on 1st June from the “Lancy” canal he managed an eel of **1lb – 15ozs** (11-15p.m). Then back on the L&L on the 8th he netted an eel of **10ozs** (10-30p.m), all the above eels were taken on float-ledgered dead baits. And finally on the 23rd from a local irrigation pond using float fished worm Cliff had **3 bootlace** eels at around 4-00p.m.

So there you have it, that is all the eel captures that have been reported to me so far this season. I will remind all the members not to forget to fill in their Catch Returns at the end of the season and get them to me, Jimmy Jolley, 23, Abingdon Drive, Platt Bridge, Wigan. WN2 5JQ, by the first week of October, whether you have caught any eels or not!!!!

Before I say good bye, until the winter issue of “Anguilla”, may I express my thanks to all the members that have been in contact with me so that this report could be written, without your in-put this would not be possible. And remember, we need photos, articles, reviews, anything that you think would be of interest to us all for the Autumn/Winter issue of “Anguilla”, I will repeat what our editor, Stuart “Spac-e-man” Dean, (and past editor Steve “Dances-with-Eels” Richardson has said numerous times,) this may well be the **LAST** edition of the club bulletin if we do not receive any material for the next issue, (according to Stuart, at the time that this issue was due out we had about 23 pages, that’s all). So you have been warned, it would be a sad day if this great magazine of ours ceased to exist due to lack of interest. So it is up to you, **THE MEMBERSHIP** to prevent this from happening.

Until next time, (if there is a next time!!!). Tight Lines & Good Snigging to you all.

Jimmy Jolley.
Records Officer.

Please send any articles, photos, diagrams or tackle reviews or anything you think may be of interest for inclusion in the next issue of “Anguilla”

To

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THE GUNGE PAGES.

'Only the lonely' decided that he would live on a boat and made all the proper moves in this direction to do so. Realising that he was serious about this, it occurred to him that he would be well short if he didn't place all his personal items on board with him. After all, it is nice to have all the comforts of home wherever you are. Living on a boat, fishing from a boat, moving quickly from spot to spot without having all that tackle assembly and carrying to contend with...yes it sounded a superb way

to exist. Slowly, all Bazza's stuff found its way on to the craft. Tackle, cooking gear, books, records of all his fishing, all his magazines, hi-fi, disc player, Armani suits, Gucci shoes, sky satellite, all the take away menus for the surrounding area...the works!!!!!!.

One morning he decided that he needed some fresh milk for his cornflakes and so 'Only the lonely' went off in search of the local shop and, on his return to his beloved watercraft home, he initially thought that perhaps the river he was moored on was tidal because the boat was lower in the water than it had been earlier that morning. Unfortunately, it wasn't the water level that had dropped but, it was, in fact, the boat which was lower than it should have been...a lot lower.

'Only the lonely' had gone from being 'Captain Pug-Wash' to the captain of U-boat 704 during the time it takes most people to eat a good hearty breakfast (work it out folks!!!).

*****This subject wasn't going to be included in the 'Gunge Pages', but pressure was brought to bear on the writer of this section of the magazine. This pressure was applied heavily by the usual crew, headed by 'Spike' and 'The Sniffer'.

I was told by my continued Gunge collector that 'Only the lonely' had decided on a boat due to the upsurge in houses being flooded every winter....what, I wonder, has 'Only the lonely' done to deserve this twist of fate. (If anyone can help Bazza out with spare copies of magazines, books and other items, I am sure that he will be very appreciative of the offers.)

I have already told Spike that I do not think a collection for a pair of waders is a good idea.

The E.A. asked if the eel clubs, under the banner of the ECS, would attend a meeting to discuss the on-going regulations and legislation surrounding elver and eel problems in our waterways. Clive Dennison of the ESG arranged for 'Dances', 'The Eeling Hedgehog' and 'B.T.' to go along with him to the Hilton Hotel at Huddersfield on the afternoon of 14/06/01.

Just one day from the meeting 'Dances' received a phone call from 'B.T.' asking if he minded him meeting up with Clive a couple of hours earlier than the scheduled time of 2.00pm. 'Dances' replied that he had no objections and asked 'B.T.' why he would think he would have.

'B.T.' replied that there was no specific reason, he just wanted to make sure that no one felt left out so to speak. 'Dances' suggested that 'B.T.' ask Clive if he wanted to meet up for breakfast as well....but 'B.T.' didn't bite that particular stick.

The only person not to be given the choice of whether he wouldn't mind a two hour chat with 'B.T.' before the meeting was Clive himself.....To say that Clive's ears were hanging on by a thread (not an AnglersNet one either) just prior to the meeting is an understatement.

When 'Dances' and 'The Eeling Hedgehog' eventually arrived at the venue at 1.55pm, they were met by a man who looked like he had just been told his execution had been terminated to freedom. The words "Thank God you two have arrived at last" was no reflection on us being late....it was more a celebration of now being able to share a cell with new inmates.

Spike and 'Dances' would have been at the hotel earlier but they were looking for 'The Hilton'....However, the Hotel has changed its name to 'The Court Hotel' and a drive around the suburbs of Huddersfield was the pre meeting warm-up.

In the car park afterwards, Clive admitted to being shell shocked by Tony's non-stop talking. Clive said "Its no wonder you call him 'B.T.'".

We told him there was possibly more to come because we were arranging for the NAC raffle to have Tony as a prize for the ESG at our winter social meeting.....Clive has banned any ESG member who is also an NAC member, from buying tickets at this years bash just in case we are serious.....(How could we be!!!!!!)

At the recent AGM, the subject of filling in catch returns came up whilst the new club constitution was being discussed. The 'Spac-e-man' was really having his say with "I cannot understand why members cannot fill in a catch return every year. It only takes about an hour at tops if the whole thing is written at the end of the season, less if the catch return is filled in after each session"..... The Spac-e-man added "That maybe it should be a condition of membership that everyone must fill in a catch return, whether they have blanked all season or not, or face the consequence of not being able to re-join the club the following year".

This was endorsed in principal by other members in the room but was felt to be far too severe for only not having filled in a couple of pages of eel sessions reports and sending them onto the Records Officer.(This club is far too liberal in its politics!!!)

As the discussion swung round to the thought process of 'how do we get the membership to conform to this action', the 'Spac-e-man' was seen to receive a piece of paper under the table from the Membership Secretary, 'The Whisperer'. On being asked what the paper contained by several members, 'Spac-e-man' blushed up and said "nothing".

After being pushed to read out the contents of the 'secret paper pass', The 'Spac-e-man' read out the following.

"What is the difference between a catch report and a membership form / photo".

The answer was read out as..... "The 'Spac-e-man' can fill in and send off a catch return to the Records Officer but he cannot fill in a membership form..... and it was only a year ago when that was required.".....(Apologies were offered from the 'Spac-e-man' and noted by all in attendance.)

Embarrassing or what?????

Our new President of two years has moved home....again, again and again!!!!

A.J.Sutton decided the sea air would be better for him than the dank air of Cheshire and so he instigated a sell up and move to the east coast.

First of all it was to be at a nice house at Mablethorpe, which unfortunately fell through at the last knockings of the move.

The plan then was for a nice bungalow in the surrounding area. Where to settle was of prime importance to A.J.S. because as he has gotten older he has started to forget his name a lot. Arthur then saw the bungalow that he thought was the answer to his and his families dreams and promptly made a move on the site. The deposit was paid and the paper work was in the pipeline when he decided to give 'Dances' a ring to inform him of his impending move and new address. (Daft move there, Arthur!!)

'Dances' asked Arthur where he was going to move to and was told over the phone, to which 'Dances' said "Right then Arthur, can I read that back to you for confirmation please", to which Arthur replied "Go ahead".

Dances then read out the following....."So, it's Arthur J. Sutton, 6 Ideal bungalows, Sutton Road, Trusthorpe, Sutton on sea, Lincs"....."That's right" replied A.J.S., "Why, what's wrong with that and why are you laughing?"

'Dances' replied "Oh nothing Arthur, thanks for the Gunge though".

A few weeks later and 'Dances' phone rang and on the other end was A.J.S.

"Steve, just phoning to say that we are not moving to that bungalow I told you about now and to inform you of the new address, ok".

After the information was divulged, 'Dances' said "Blimey Arthur, that was a bit drastic wasn't it, just because I was going to Gunge you for the previous address"....to which Arthur replied "Why, what was wrong with the other address?????"

Gotta phone call from 'The Sniffer' asking for one more page of Gunge to complete a three page cycle for the magazine....dish the dirt for one more page or we have to lose the two that are already in....sort-a-thing.

After the initial request was put forward, the conversation got around to that weekends (6/7 July) sessions by both 'Dances' and 'The Sniffer'..... 'Dances' quickly reported yet another blank session apart from enduring a 1hr 45 minute storm of epic proportions, in which he found out that you can keep yourself and all your gear on the bed chair during such an event. However, the reason for the record breaking 'how much stuff can you balance on your bed chair contest' was because the green thing called an umbrella that 'Dances' hides under during his sessions became a large sieve within minutes of the downpour occurring. At one point in the torrential onslaught, 'Dances' decided that the only way to remain intact and half dry was to pull the umbrella completely down, creating 'The Derbyshire Dome'.....however, each time the rain abated slightly, 'Dances' poked his head out and became 'The Eeling Tortoise'.

On one such occasion, 'Dances' was confronted with two dog walkers peering much too closely at what the 'Dome' was all about.....as 'Dances' poked his head out of the shell, both loonies jumped back in surprise. This brought about the only smile to an otherwise damp 'Dances' face whilst the storm raged.....fortunately for 'Dances', the bobbins on his rods remained motionless and so the decision to get 'cooked' or endure another blank session was diverted, thanks to his ability to strategically place his eel baits anywhere but where an eel might be mooching.

Once the rain had stopped, 'Dances' took his flask and sarnies and sat on his chair and enjoyed his freedom from 'the shell' in the gloomy cloud covered night air. At 11.20pm, a carp angler came up for a chat and told 'Dances' that he and his mate had just found out that the tents that they had bought were not very good in heavy rain and that they had been soaked to the skin and everything else they had with them as well..... to which 'Dances' replied "Oh dear, you really have to make sure that your gear is up for any kind of weather mate, I was well sorted under just my brolly." The carp lad just looked and said "We have seen you a few times now mate and all you ever have is that brolly, don't you have a tent?" "All I need is a brolly" replied 'Dances'....not quite adding that it was a new one he needed and then changed the subject completely.

'The Sniffer' and 'The Burglar' had endured a session on the canal up their way.....secret's lads???.. and had managed eight (8) runs between them during the night. 'Dances' asked how many they had caught and was told "Just the one, to 'The Burglar's' rod."

What did it weigh asked 'Dances' to which 'The Sniffer' said "It was only a baby one, it went 2.11 but 'The Burglar' was up and running everywhere in jubilation at having caught a two plusser. I was glad it wasn't me who caught it, because I don't like catching boots".

Interestingly, and quite poignantly, there are two quotes from 'The Burglar' to finish off this issue's Gunge material.

Quote one.....Whilst in the middle of a two day session the week before, 'The Burglar' decided to go off and buy some soft drinks to quench his and 'The Sniffers' thirst. After a short while, he returned and handed out the cans of pop. 'The Burglar' then cracked his tab and took a long pull out of the can of Tango Orange he had purchased (doesn't sound the same as a cold cider, does it?) and then 'Proclaimed aloud'..... "God that's Tangy"..... Seventy-Twelvety years and lots of cash spend by 'Tango' coming up with a name for their soft drink and 'The Burglar' cracks it in one!!!!!!

Quote two..... Having just shared an overnight eeling session with eight runs in it, 'The Burglar' turns to 'The Sniffer' and says..... "I don't like getting lots of runs on a session, it upsets me too much"

'The Sniffer' is now holding interviews for a new potential fishing partner, having obviously completely sent his long and trusted companion over the edge by wearing a white carp sack over his head as a mossie repellent during their sessions together. (You needed to see the slide show to understand this unique fashion craze 'The Sniffer' follows!!!!!!)