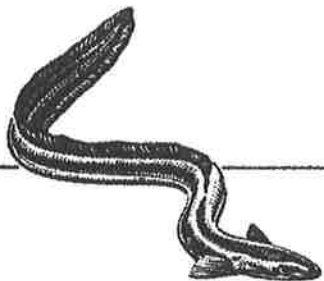


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The National Anguilla Club

BULLETIN

THE NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB.

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Vol; 16

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EDITORIAL.

' After the Lord Mayors Show' - a well known saying usually emanating during that period of deadly quiet when everything returns to the doldrums after a big event.

That same saying cannot be levelled at us, for after our big event, the A.G.M., things are really moving and your officers are finding plenty to do. Before going further, I would like to thank all those who attended the meeting. By consent a very wonderful meeting which all enjoyed. To see lads come up all the way from the coast on a motor cycle at this time of the year makes us feel proud indeed.

You will have read in the newsletter sent out by Terry of our three new members. I do not think that we have ever had a more acceptable trio of new members. I have seen two of them in action and I can tell you that their enthusiasm leaves nothing to be desired at all. Hopefully, we will read something from them in the Bulletin and indeed, one of them is in print in this issue. Well done that man.

You will also notice - I hope? - that Terry has already put into effect what I proposed at the meeting. Namely, that we publish the reports of the various officers as soon as possible after the A.G.M. Our secretary really did get cracking! Now please do read these reports and digest as much as you can. The reports represent current thinking of those persons elected to run this Club on your behalf, so the reports should point the way to the future. Of course, if there is anything to which you object you should speak up now and not wait until another crisis rears its ugly head.

This is not, as you will see, the biggest Bulletin we have ever produced. Hopefully my remarks re contributions to the Bulletin will have some effect before too long, but meanwhile we were intent on publishing before Christmas so you will have to settle for what we have. Albeit very little. My thanks to those who have made an effort.

I don't know how many of you will have seen the I.T.V. programme "No Lullaby for Broadland". This documentary programme was seen in the London area on Tuesday November 20th. It was full of interest although the message it conveyed was not one of optimism. To see the many close-up shots of birds both large and small floating dead among the muck washing against a barren bank which was once lush with foliage could only bring sadness and despair to the hearts of all who enjoy the countryside, no matter what their pursuit. Speaking of the great harm already done, the commentator said that things would change, and here I quote, "Only when man realizes that he is part of the natural order of things, and that its impoverishment will be that of his own". See it if you get the opportunity.

We must add our own voice, small though it may be, to that of those who raise an outcry against such things, and it is of no use pretending that it doesn't affect you. It does, my friend, or it WILL.

We have taken the first small step by re-aligning ourselves with the National Association of Specimen Groups. Of course, we cannot now sit back and leave them to do it all just because we are coughing up three quid per member. We will undoubtedly have to 'lean' on them a little from time to time. It may be that we should elect delegates to attend their more important meetings - after all, we must get involved.

With Christmas just a dream away, or too blasted near, according to who one views such event, perhaps one may be forgiven for waxing a little sentimental. I expect that many of you will know of an angler less well off than yourself. If so, how about popping round to him with a packet of fags, or the price of a packet of hooks. It may not improve his unfortunate circumstance - but such action can do much for those whose outlook is one of despair.

I expect a great rush of articles with which to start the new year and my typewriter is ready and waiting.

Meanwhile, your officers and I extend to you the compliments of the season and our wishes for good sport to be had by you all in 1980.

A.J. Sutton. (Editor)

Castle waters are a series of connected gravel workings situated alongside the road from RYE to RYE HARBOUR in East Sussex. The owner is a slightly eccentric man who bought the estate several years ago. Norman Jones, the owner, is a man who likes people to enjoy themselves. So, as long as you respect his rules, which are few, the access card to the estate gives the chance of fishing, camping, sailing, canoeing or swimming etc all for £5 per twelve month period on 68 acres of water.

Species which abound in this clear fertile gravel pit include Tench to 7lb +, Bream to 10 lb +, Carp 25lb (common) large Perch and Rudd and of course the eels. I have fished this water for many years with varied success. Dead baits ie; Roach, Rudd, Bleak, Dace and Gudgeon etc are mashed by small eels almost immediately. A sprat will last, at most, just ten minutes. Fishing with small dead baits, some ten to twenty small eels can be taken in a session. Large baits produce a lot of twitches and no eels - just mashed baits. I have managed to take a fair few eels, up to 3lb 10oz, but wading through that vast army of bootlaces is a soul destroying business.

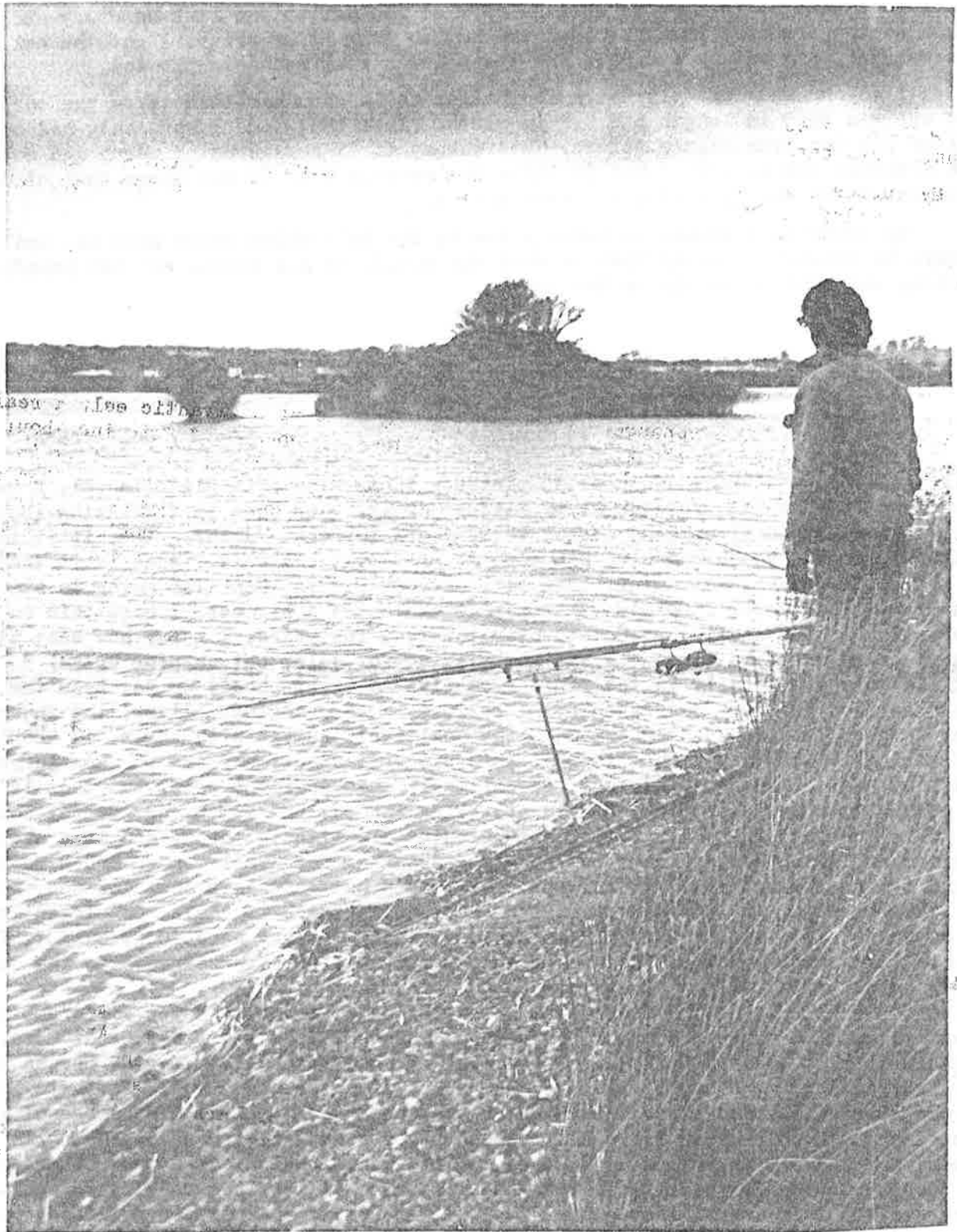
When I applied to join the N.A.C. I corresponded a lot with Henry Hansen and of course we discussed at great length the bootlace problem. He had, it seemed, had the same problem on his waters. On his advice I decided to use only large perch baits of 5 - 6 inches, or eel sections.

The glorious sixteenth arrived and I put Henry's theory into practise. The usual train of events was to cast out four baits and within a very short period the twitches would start. This time, however, I cast four perch out and hadn't a twitch of any sort for over four hours. Suddenly the right hand rod bounced in the rest and the alarm sounded one continuous blast. This was the best run I had had in years. It took twenty five yards of line in seconds, then stopped. As the line tightened again I struck and was pleased to feel a really determined thump thump at the other end. Two or three minutes later my first eel of 79 was netted. I silently said "Good old Henry". At 2.30 AM I had a twitch on the same rod. The indicator rose slowly and I struck into what seemed like a large weedbed. I drew what I thought to be a mass of weed towards me and it appeared at my feet like a large log. A Pike, which, after a spirited fight weighed in at 16lbs 11oz.

At first light I weighed and measured my eel. 3lb 11oz - 36" long with a girth of 8½". My personal best from the water. What a start! The next session was a blank. No Perch were available but one of my group members had taken a small eel on sweet corn, so, for my next session, I put out two rudd and two eel steaks. At 9.30pm I had a very fast run on an eel bait. This proved to be an eel of 3lb 8oz - 36½" x 8".

Two 3lb + eels in three sessions - I couldn't believe it. No one to my knowledge had experienced success like this before at this venue. During the next few weeks I took two smaller eels at 2lb 7oz and 1lb 10oz on perch baits. I, at this stage, fished solely with eel steaks if they were available. My persistence really paid off at last after several more blanks. I arrived at the water and decided to fish a completely different area than before. This was a shallow bay about 50yds across and 80 yds long. It had a heavy growth of weed close in but little further than about 4yds. There were several large beds of rushes to my left and a connection channel to my right. This leads to the large bay I had fished previously.

Four eel steaks were cast out fanwise around my position approx; 15 yds out from the bank. All remained peaceful for some while, myself being the only angler for ¼ mile or so. The rod on my left suddenly shook - no sound coming from the alarm. The alarm started to sing, sort of as an afterthought I suppose. After taking ten yards of line the eel stopped and stayed still for, perhaps, one minute. As it started to move off again I struck. All hell broke loose, and the rod which many of my carp fishing friends call a 'snooker cue' (David Walker for one) was transformed into a very inferior wand. That eel took off at an amazing speed and crashed through a bed of rushes over to the left. "Oh dear", or words to that effect, I whispered. To my amazement and relief the eel, when encouraged by a hefty pull from me, came back the same way as it went. It never even bent over a single reed. Two more half hearted runs and a lot of back-peddling later and I had it over the net. Disaster - the eel curled



WINTER PIKING ON CASTLE WATERS

Its tail around the cord at the front of the landing net and promptly threw itself three feet in the air. This time, I pulled its head up over the spreader block and in he went with no further trouble. I carried the net up the bank some way and unhooked the trace. I then unfolded the net to look at my prize. I got the eel into the weighing bag with a struggle and the pointer went round to 5lb 4oz.

I do now know exactly how a footballer feels when his team takes the world Cup. The eel was 39 $\frac{1}{4}$ " in length and 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ " in girth. Since that time I have only had one more eel of 2lb 8oz from Castle Waters. This was my first season using perch and eel steaks and although the eels were not prolific the average size is way above that of other seasons. I can hardly wait until next summer!

My success, I think, is largely due to the help which Henry gave me, and I will always be grateful. Surely that is what the N.A.C. is all about, and the proof of the pudding was most certainly in the eating.

* * * * *

LEVIATHAN.

By Tony Hollerbach.

Leviathan - the very word conjures up pictures in my mind of a gigantic eel, a really exceptional fish which exceeds all my wildest dreams - or does it? Thinking about it, is it really beyond my wildest dreams? Or yours for that matter. Yet, if it is really within our reach why have not more of us caught big eels? What is it that we are doing, or rather, not doing, that will catch big eels. Now I am going to stir it with my next sentence. I believe that anyone can catch a big eel. I base this on my observation in the angling press etc over the last few years. I mean, how many times have you read or heard this. "I was not fishing for eels, but carp(or bream)" These notified eels are usually in the range from five to eight pounds or so. Even the present record eel(God help us) was taken by, I believe, a carp angler. Blimey, the thought of a carp angler landing an 11.2 eel makes me positively quiver with anger. IF SHOULD HAVE FALLEN TO ONE OF US! That is what this piece is about. Why are so many large eels landed by non eel anglers. Alright, we will call them accident eels, but that is hardly the point. Accident or not, these eels are being landed, and NOT by us. So why not?

Over the past few years my largest eel went 6.4 with two of 5+ and five over four. Good compared with some, perhaps but Honestly speaking for myself, more and more nowadays I find I'm analysing my tackle and methods to find out what is wrong. You see, my aim, and I believe it to be the aim of most of you, is to catch big eels, consistently. Just how do we get into it CONSISTENTLY as a group. That's the key word. CONSISTENCY. I would like to take several points in turn in an attempt to find some pointers to the capture of big eels Consistently. There, that word again.

1. CHOICE OF WATER. On the face of it, big eels exist in quite a few different types of water. Most of my eels of four pounds and over came from the river Great Ouse, though probably this was because that water recieved my most intensive efforts. Second comes Clay or gravel pits, notably BRA lake, which has given me a 4r5 $\frac{1}{2}$ eel - much to Brians disgust at the time and Newnham lake which yielded my best eel at 6:4. Areas of limestone and chalk which have lakes all produce big eels and they have one thing in common, and that is an abundance of food, be it fry or other food items. Other pointers may be easy access for small eels but non existent exit for larger eels. So we have two points to consider there. What else? Well, little or no competition for food would certainly help. Good pointers would be RELIABLE reports of eels coming from a water. If you have taken them yourself so much the better. Having chosen your water what next.

Well, the next thing to consider is the choice of swim. Swims come like waters, in several different types, so which one to look for in our chosen water? Do we go for intensively weedy swims or snaggy ones, or bordering reeds or even in clear open water. Far out, or near to the bank? All these types produce big eels in different waters, so this should perhaps be one of our foremost problems - the choice of a big eel swim. speaking for myself, I like to have a looksee beforehand, although I generally seem to go for swims on the border of snags, reeds or weeds etc. Perhaps that is where I go wrong.

2. CHOICE OF BAITS. Well, choice of bait is certainly a key, to my way of thinking.

As I said in a previous article, EELS ARE INDIVIDUALS, so choice of bait is of some paramount importance. If you get that wrong, all else counts for nothing. Find out, if you can, which baits take eels in that water, and where. What natural food is present, (Try using it) and again, where.

3. TACKLE STRENGTH- HOOK SIZE , DRAG. All these do, I believe, contribute greatly to success or failure in big eel capture. For example, a really beefy rod coupled with a heavy line do hardly aid consistent captures. The force required to move a heavy line, say one of 15lb, has to be seen to be believed. The same applies to hooks. Even the dumbest of eels must surely notice that large piece of metal involved in a size 1 or 1/0 hook. Even 2,4 or 6 must be noticeable to some extent. Whether the eel chooses to ignore this in some instances is open to debate, or does its greed/hunger take over and cancel out much of its warning instinct. But heavy tackle and large hooks must be cause of a number of abortive runs; - and how many of those are due to large eels ?

As to traces, well I have not used them for some two years now and have only had one break (due to a jack pike). I used to be a strong advocate of traces but have found that since doing away with them my standard has improved greatly. At the same time, I lowered my line strength to a maximum of ten pounds. Whether I would have caught the same if I had remained HEAVY I do not know, but I doubt it. To sum up. My case for the consistent catching of large eels lies in a never ending search for clues as to what will or will not catch a big eel. Please give it some thought(write an article) and who knows, the ANGUILLA CLUB will get the LEVIATHAN it deserves. Cheers. TONY.H.

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HANDS OFF THE BOTTOM - THE EELS ARE ELSEWHERE.

A.J.Sutton.

Late last winter and through the Close Season we had a lively and interesting discussion going following my article. That article carried the title "Moonlight Eel Fishing" At that time I felt strongly that our lack of success in catching eels when the moon was evident bore strongly from the idea that the eels would, under those conditions, be seeking their prey near to or actually at the surface. I was working on information received by me which fully supported that surmise. I was intent on doing a lot of eel fishing with my baits well away from the bottom during the summer of 1979, and I went to some lengths to compose a list of those nights when the moon would, given a clear sky, shine down serenely on those waters I intended to fish. There seemed to be all too few such nights falling at weekends, so I even planned my holidays to coincide with such periods and was intent on making the most of what there was.

My season got off to its usual slow start with some four nights fishing with Dave Holman on the meres yielding nothing at all. We did take some first class perch, but that was a bonus which I didnt seek. On arrival back in London, I travelled out to the West of London water I had planned to fish. I knew for certain that the water held eels for Alan Hawkins, Dave Ball and I had already taken them to just over three pounds during some illegal night fishing there. Now night fishing was being allowed for the first time, and I could hardly contain my excitement. Yet several nights fishing baits in normal fashion(on the bottom) produced nothing at all. My son did take one miserably small specimen on a lobworm which was at least as large as the eel itself. He was delighted, but I suddenly realised that I had a problem. My usual excuse has been that the eel population is so low that I could hardly expect to score every time, or even every fourth or fifth time. But here was I, on a water which I knew for certain held a very fair head of eels, and still I couldn't catch one. Not even a bootlace. Here was a water where even a complete fool should be able to take a few decent eels, and I was catching nothing. So desperate, my son and I spent the following weekend on an adjacent water after tench. We were rewarded with fish of 8lbs and 6lb 11oz, the larger one being by far my best ever. My son thought that was really easy, but I knew better. I knew from past experience that we could possibly fish for another two season on that same water without a fish of any description. So we turned again to that first water, and the eels - I hoped.

I do not know why I elected to fish one bait on float tackle with the bait some two feet below the surface, for the night was as dark as any I have known. But I did, and was mighty glad that I did so. We had seven good runs that weekend, all on the float tackle while the bottom fished gear continued its undisturbed vigil. We took two fair sized eels and completely missed five other really good runs. I was so busy dealing with runs and rebaiting etc that I paid no heed to the fact that the eels were obviously feeding well away from the bottom in complete darkness. Later, the following week, I did give it some thought. But I decided that it was just 'one of those things' which bear no explanation. More interesting was the knowledge that we had two weekends coming up when the moon would be 'just about right'.

And so it was. Just about what I had prayed for. One could have read the small print in the Angling Times, or any other comic. At least that is how it was on the first of the two 'likely' weekends. But alas, no eels. Not even a single twitch. I forget what I thought about all that week. True, we had tried a completely unknown and somewhat shallow pitch, and I may have overlooked something. The following weekend I would fish with both baits off the bottom. All my eggs in one basket. That weekend found very low thick cloud scurrying across the sky before a fairly hefty breeze from the South. Not what I had in mind at all, not for any sort of angling. But with a somewhat heavy heart (and persuaded by my son) I set out for what must surely be yet another blank. So despondent was I that on arrival at the water I set up only one rod.

It was hardly dark, and with NO MOON, when we had the first run and was rewarded with an eel of just over four pounds. The very first FOUR my son had seen. I don't know which of us was the more excited, but I soon had the second rod up and baited. I had to alter the tackle, for the wind on the water was playing havoc with the float gear. I resorted to a modified version of that rig illustrated by Steve Hope, using one of Arthur Smith's excellent pike floats. It worked well, and I have used no other outfit since then. We put two other first class eels on the bank that same night. I felt mighty pleased with myself, my pleasure being tempered only by young Michael reminding me that it was he who talked me into coming at all.

The following weekend we grassed yet another FOUR pounder and missed countless really fast runs. We could hardly wait to go again, but when we did attempt the trip we had to turn back because of the traffic. Anyone having experience of the North Circular Road must know how bad it can be on a Friday or Saturday evening under normal circumstances, - but when there are road works as well!!!

We didn't go to that venue again during the summer, only recently on a pike trip (blank as usual). Instead, I turned my attention to Stanstead Abbots which is rather nearer home. I had intended to give that water a full seasons rest from eel fishing, but with our new found success with baits off the bottom I thought it might just be worth a try. I suffered the usual blank sessions there, to be expected because of the low eel population (I believe). Then I caught the whopper of 7lb 1oz - 7lbs of fighting fury. I must admit that this fish was taken on a bottom fished bait with normal tackle. Stanstead yielded two more fish to me on baits fished only 24" deep. Incidentally, the 7lb eel had a mark near the upper part of its dorsal fin as though it had once been tagged. I wonder. ?

Suffice to say that I now know very much more about fishing baits off the bottom than I did one year ago. I should mention the fact that around the time we discovered that it was the darker nights which produced eels to midwater baits, Henry Hansen and Steve Hope were discovering exactly the same thing, and telephoned to tell me. Henry wrote to say that runs on a single rod fishing a bait a matter of inches deep outnumbered runs on four other rods fishing bottom baits by as much as seven or eight to one. They too had found the runs difficult to connect with, as had we.

It remains a fact of life that eels will feed near to or at the surface, and very near to the bank - BUT NOT, it seems, when there is a moon. I do not know how to relate my own experience, or Henry and Steve's, with those of the Norfolk angler I told you of. Maybe a clearer pattern will emerge before too long.

There is much to learn, and certainly some problems to solve. Not least of which is how to convert a greater proportion of the runs into eels on the bank. I cannot, at this stage, suggest a solution. Multi hook tackles appear not to work very well. But

when more of our members are convinced enough to try these new methods for themselves we shall undoubtedly start to learn at a quicker pace.

Meanwhile, I have developed another theory as to why eels should come near to the surface to feed (bearing in mind that my Moonlight theory is shot to pieces). I now believe that under certain conditions the eels seek the warmer strata of water in which to feed, although they will be deterred by a bright moon. Jim Gibbinson once wrote, in our Bulletin, that eels are negatively phototrophic or, more simply, that they are (generally speaking) put off feeding by a bright moon and also caught ONLY RARELY during the hours of daylight.

After a normal summers day, the warer strata of water will be at or near to the surface. As summer lengthens into Autumn that becomes increasingly true. It was certainly so when I recently caught a November eel weighing 3lb 2oz on a bait only 24" deep. The temperature of the water at time of capture was four degrees warmer at a depth of 24" than it was at the bottom.

That could possibly explain the capture of so many good eels by early winter pike anglers, for such eels are invariably taken off the bottom. It might also point the way to future eel fishing, for we should consider the evidence which suggests that we might profitably extend our eel fishing into November (and perhaps later ?)

Lastly, dare I suggest that we must do all we can in order to learn more of the movements of the eel, the most unseen of all fish. Later on I will have something to tell of my plans for next summer and autumns eel fishing. But not before I've had my Christmas dinner - and I hope that you all enjoy yours.

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LUCKYSTONE LAKE No 1.

By Andy Lister.

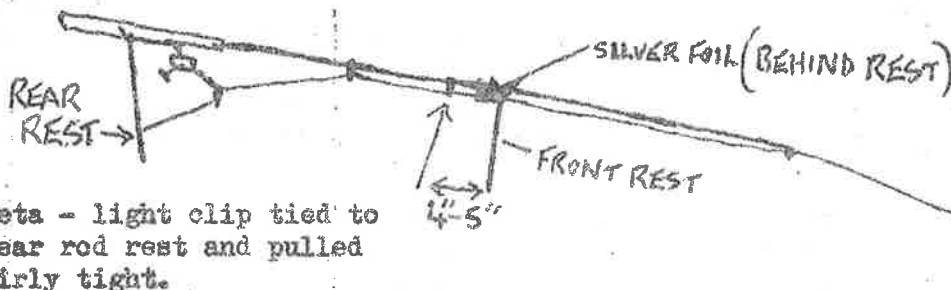
The 1978-79 season was, for me, a complete failure. And not only from an eel fishing point of view, consequently by the end of March I had already decided that on no account was the 79-80 season going to be as dismal. It may seem strange to anyone living outside my area, but around here eels are virtually non-existent and the nearest eel fishing I had was twenty five miles away at Belvoir Castle. Unfortunately, due to the efforts of commercial netmen, that venue is no more. Before that water was netted, I could almost guarantee a 3lb eel per session. Three completely blank sessions since the water was netted convinced me that I had to look elsewhere, in order to get some decent eel fishing.

For any member on the look-out for new water the first thing to do is to buy several Ordnance survey maps covering your area. Try to pick out a few suitable looking waters, taking into account inlets and outlets and distance from known eel populations together with rivers and canals etc. The very first move is to fill the car with petrol jump in go and search for these waters. During the first week in April I drove almost three hundred miles to look at about eight different waters. After visiting them and collecting all relevant information regarding rules, ownership, regulations and possible potential I reduced the number of possibilities to two, and finally picked one on which to make a start. Let me say here that if you foray a particular water never be put off by anything or anyone. I wrote numerous letters and made half a dozen telephone calls to various people in different parts of the country and eventually my persistence paid off.

Unfortunately, close season fishing was not allowed so it was not until the end of June that I started to fish at Luckystone Lake No 1. This was later than I would have preferred, but for the first two weeks of the season I simply cannot drag myself away from the tench fishing. However, one tench of 5 1/2 lb convinced me that I would do no worse eel fishing. Returning home, the first job was to collect a few gudgeon from my local river. Bait catching to me is nothing but a dreary chore. However, this time was a real bonus when, what I had decided was to be my last bait was plucked from the waters surface by a 3lb 10oz brownie. Hell, what a fight! That evening I drove the fifty or so miles to what is now my nearest eel fishing. I think the most exciting aspect of fishing a new water is the air of mystery surrounding it.

Luckystone Lake covers about forty acres, I would guess. Unfortunately I arrived late in the evening and consequently I simply picked a swim, set up four rods, and fished through the night until mid morning. Dawn arrived without so much as a flicker on any indicator. Considering it was supposed to be the best time of the year and that the night had been both still and warm, I began to think that I had chosen the wrong water. An hour or so after dawn one of the gudgeon dead baits moved off. The run was typical of a pike and, sure enough 2lb or so of pike was soon having a size two gold strike extracted from its jaws. Another similar sized pike was lost a little later on as I tried to swing it onto the bank. The rest of that morning was spent sleeping in preparation for the following nights attack. During the afternoon I had a good look round the place a plumbed the depth. I discovered that my previous nights fishing was in about 25ft of water, crystal clear and weed free except for a few pieces of potamogeton. Thinking that depth was probably devoid of suitable food items I decided to drag my gear around to the adjacent bank and fish through the night with three rods. The afternoons plumbing had revealed between 2 and 5 feet of water in my chosen area, and with plenty of weed growth. As dusk arrived a dead gudgeon was cast out on pater-noster gear about 50yds from the bank. Likewise, three lobworms on another rod with the third rod being freelined.

Compared to the previous night, the weather was uncomfortable, to say the least. A moderate wind was blowing into my face, which I recall brought a little rain later. Now I don't know about anyone else but I never use buzzers nowadays of any sort except for zander fishing at night. With eel fishing I like to see the run start and I try to understand exactly what the eel is doing with the bait. This can be important at times, especially when one is using dead bait. My set-up is as follows:- A beta light clip is attached to the line between the butt ring or the second ring and the front rod rest. The space is usually about 4 - 5 inches (see diagram). This way, it can blow about very little if conditions become a little hairy. Another obvious point, I never sleep while eel fishing. Surely, if you wait all week to go eel fishing, it should not be too hard to stay awake for what is usually only five or six hours of darkness. Actually in my case it is probably a bit easier than for most - I usually fish alone and consequently don't relax the same as if I were in the company of two or three others. With this method, you can both watch and listen without having to concentrate too hard on either.



Beta - light clip tied to rear rod rest and pulled fairly tight.

Anyway, back to the night in question. At around midnight, with waves lapping in at my feet, the beta light on the legered gudgeon twitched up an inch or two, pulled tight and fell to the ground. Judging by the noise made by the silver foil about 2' of line was taken. Then it stopped for about five seconds before moving off again, whereupon I struck to feel a very solid resistance about 50 yds out. Because of the thick weed I did not dare to give any line, and bit by bit a very reluctant eel was brought to the bank and netted. At first I thought "well its a big three" and on closer inspection I decided that it was a fair sized four. Finally, the scales proved me wrong when they plunged down to register 5lb 6oz - an ounce better than my previous best. The rest of the night, although I fished on, it was a little half hearted I must admit.

A few photographs were taken during the following morning by a young lad I had noticed walking along the nearby road, and then I started to pack up hardly able to believe that my first eel on a new water had clocked in at that size. I had almost packed when the bailiff's wife arrived and asked what I was doing here (I had not met the bailiff at that time). I showed her the permit and casually asked how many permit holders there were. I thought she was joking when she replied "Four".

Three days later and full of anticipation I was back again. This time another hard fight with a liphooked eel of 4lb 4¹/₂oz was the result of one run on legered lobworms. The following Sunday, even with having to work in the morning I had to give it another session. Nothing happened until about 2.00 am, when the indicator dropped off the lobworm rod (again legered). A quick strike was met with very solid resistance and I could feel the cork handle bending under my arm. Suddenly, the rod tip lunged down taking the reel handle from my fingers and causing the reel to spin backwards. Seconds later all went slack - the line having been broken about 2-3 inches from the hook.

Although I had several more sessions fishing other parts of the water I did not experience another run. Unfortunately, I also got diverted onto another water (not for eels) and wasted a month of the summer season. If only I had had more time available I feel that my results on Luckystone would have been greatly increased.

A few details of the water in order for you to compare it with your own water. The water is roughly 40 acres in extent with various depths on different banks from two feet to twenty five feet and very heavily weeded in the shallower water, the area which produced the runs. Crystal clear water, alive with freshwater shrimps. Although a very old water it appears to have very few fish in it. The only other fish I saw are what appeared to be roach fry, several hundred of them. Never did I see a fish roll at dawn or dusk and not once did I have trouble with any other fish, except that pike. A most unusual water, to say the least.

Since I started to write this article, one of my local waters, Nanpanton Reservoir has been completely drained and, just to give an example of my local eel population I thought I might mention that the total number of eels in that water consisted of a single fish of about 1¹/₂lbs. Not bad considering that three years ago I put three eels of similar size in the water that I had taken elsewhere.

Two years ago I had about half a dozen sessions at Nanpanton Res and the first session resulted in one missed run that I am convinced came from an eel. Subsequent trips that year yielded nothing and this season the one trip I had there was the same. Last week I spoke to the water authority men who removed the fish before it was empty and besides the one eel, the only other fish in the place were hundreds of small roach and a few small perch, half a dozen double figure pike, one solitary 20lb + leather carp and an 11lb Brownie!

Thankyou Andy. Your article arrived only in the nick of time as I was about to post off the material to Terry, so please excuse any mistakes. I would like to see what you achieve at Luckystone No 1 in 1980.

To the editor of the
Monthly Bulletin. N.A.C.

Mr. R. Baczyk
42, Ayres Drive,
Stanground,
Peterborough.
PE2-8JS.
Tele; (0733) 45909.

I would like to thank the committee for accepting my application as a provisional member. And to tell you that I'll be doing whatever is expected of me as a member. As so stated in the letter which accompanied the application form to be a member of the N.A.C., we are expected to contribute to the monthly bulletin. I'm putting my fingers to the keys hoping that the following articles provide something for your bulletin.

At the A.G.M., not so long ago, at which I was present, I was very intrigued by all that was said. By meeting other members, I was able to sum up that it wasn't a looney bin, as many outsiders reckon it to be. Although I didn't think it was in the first place. First impressions to any outsider, wishing to join the N.A.C. can be a little frightening, whereas many other clubs I know of, subject new members to the so called "treatment". However I saw that you were all intelligent people, who knew what they were doing and talking about. That's why I'm about to ask for your help.

Regarding my eel fishing, which starts for me from mid-April to the end of September. My problem seem's that I can't catch any notable size eels. To date after three years serious eel fishing, I've only produced two 2 lb plus eels and both of them have been caught this summer. What I would like is advice on my approach and tactics. Brian Crawford, whom I fish with, offers me good advice on certain aspects, but it seems that neither of us at the moment are having any luck.

My fishing for eels is somewhat restricted to the Peterborough area, as I have to rely on Brian for transport. I prefer to fish my local bricks pits, which has enormous potential for eels and other fish, with the exception of game fish and Zander.

One pit in particular I like fishing is called L.B.1. otherwise known as "Butlers". I've fished L.B.1. now for three years and as mentioned above I've only caught two 2 lb plus eels, although reports from the local SUB AQUA CLUB, tell me that many much larger eels have been sighted and hand caught. However my problem it seems that I can't catch'em. I've tried many tactics, but always resort to be going back to the paternoster, as this method has always provided me with some results. I've tried freeline, suspended baits off the bottom and even float-fishing. But as before they hardly provided me with any specific results. I suppose condensing all the methods mentioned above, should pay off as a suitable tactic to fish L.B.1.

Another point that comes to mind are the baits I use. 99% of the time I fish for eels I would use spratts. The main reason why I use spratts more than any other available bait, is that the spratt gives off a excessive amount of it's own oils after it has been cut up for presentation on the hook. I believe is a very potent attraction for eels to home in on. Further potency may be added by injecting the spratt, with more amounts of oil, such as cooking or vegetable. Another point of the usefulness of this bait is their softness, although some criticism may arise from it. The only difficulty in using this bait, is that they tend to fly off your hook on long casts. I've come to the conclusion (this is only theory) that by applying P.V.A. strips around the fish and hook, the P.V.A. will act as shock absorbers. On reaching the water the P.V.A. will begin to dissolve and the bait should be firmly hooked awaiting a eel to come over and commit temporary suicide.

All this may sound as if I'm tending to oppose and at the same time be in favour of my tactics and beliefs. But please note that I'm always open to suggestions. I may be not as good or as experienced as the other members, but I hope that one day I will.

(continued on following page, lower part, Ed)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

From the P.R.O.

As the new P.R.O. I am looking to all of you to help me make this job a satisfying one. If I have some co-operation from the members I think that I will be able to contribute a great deal to the N.A.C.

It is of little use having a P.R.O. if members ignore him inasmuch as they do not send him information regarding catches(not only of eels) for him to pass on to the angling Press. So please, if you catch something that you feel will be worth reporting, send me details together with a Black/White negative if possible, and I will forward it to the relevant people with all the details supplied.

Any articles you may have written will be dealt with similarly. Publicity will not harm the Club and if you do send your material direct to the Press, please give the Club a mention. As Brian said at our A.G.M., the NAC is a well respected body and letting others know that we are alive and active will bode only good for us.

It is up to you. I am but a phone call away, so please do help me make a success of this job

(signed) A.Mitchell.

From the Membership Secretary.

In a letter to myself and other members of the Committee, Tony Hollerbach outlined the approach he will be taking with regard to new applications for membership. Tony has quite obviously been doing his homework for he quotes figures relating to how many have applied in the past few years, how many do not return forms sent to them, how very great is the turnover of members in the Club etc.

The approach Tony is intending will serve to 'Double Check' each applicant with a view to arriving at a more stable membership over the next few years.

However, both of the above letters serve to show that our two new officers are already active and that they both mean to get on with the job in hand on your behalf.

(Continued from previous page)

If there are any obliging members out there who can give me a few tips I would be very grateful. Eel fishing isn't just setting up a rod and then casting out any old bait and just waiting for a bite, is it? There is preparation and a sense of doing everything right, so that the odds are reduced to a successful eel session.

Thankyou,

Richard Haczyk. (Peterborough)

I wish to extend my thanks to all those of you who wrote following the A.G.M. to say how very much you enjoyed the meeting. Many of you also spoke of the faith you have in the Clubs future. Well, I can tell you that we are well and truly active and that you will be seeing and hearing much more during 1980 than you did during 1979. Thanks for the letters. My postman has breathed a sigh of relief, knowing that he is not, after all, to be made redundant. Ed.

The following is a letter from our F.R.O to Neville Fickling of the N.A.S.G.

Neville Fickling Esq
49 Knighton Fields Road W
Leicester
Leics.

Dear Neville,

Please could you include this newsletter in your letter page of 'Coarse Fisherman'.

The N.A.C. held its A.G.M. on the 4th of November. The attendance was quite high considering the appalling weather, with some 70% of members present.

The list of Officers for the 79/80 season is as follows:-

Chairman (Club Analyst)	Brian Crawford.
President and Editor	Arthur Sutton.
Gen Secretary	Terry Jefferson.
Treasurer	Ernie Orme.
Membership Secretary	Tony Hollerbach.
Press Release Officer	Alan Mitchell.

The following were the recipients of the Clubs trophies for 1979:-

Arthur Sutton	Best eel - 7lb 1oz
Andy Lister	Best eel caught on Club trip - 3lb
Arthur Sutton	Nigel Jeyes Memorial Cup This cup was awarded for contributing so much for and on behalf of the Club during his membership.

As we have over the years accumulated vast quantities of data, it has been decided to purchase a small computer. With this, we will be able to condense this information for easier reference.

Finally, it was agreed at the meeting that the Club as a whole would once again give its total support to the NASG. Hopefully, this will prove a beneficial alliance to both parties.

Signed - Alan Mitchell. F.R.O.
5 Manston Way.
Hastings,
East Sussex. TN34 2TB.