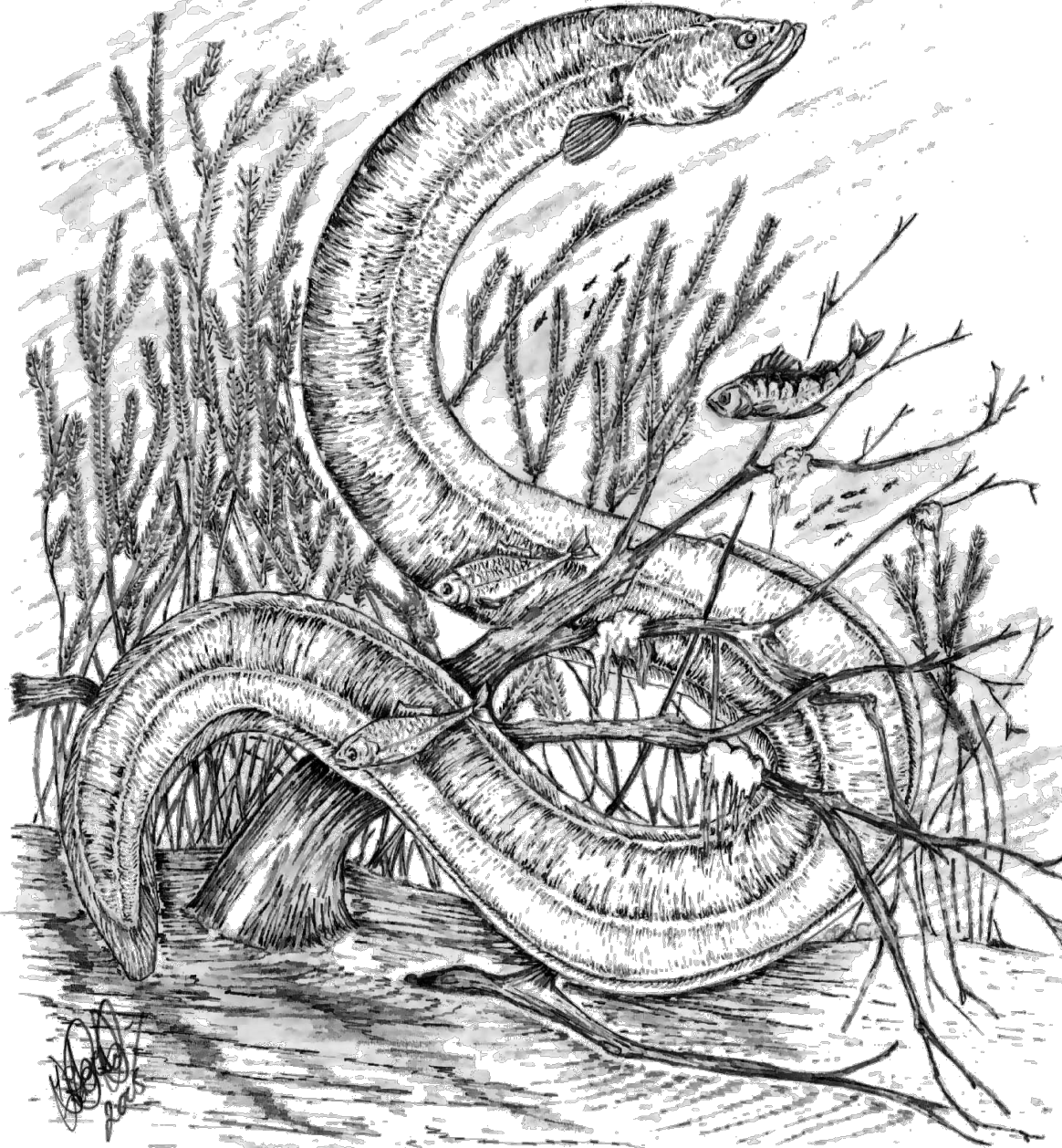


"Anguilla"

Volume 43, Issue 1. Summer 2005.



The Bulletin of the National Anguilla Club



Anguilla Volume 43, Issue 1. Contents.

Page 1...	Contents.
Page 2....	“Team Talk”
Page 4....	Eel fishing on Rivers.....Ian Mascall.
Page 5....	Got my Head Back On!Malc “Lucky Law”.
Page 6....	Phases of the Moon Internet resource
Page 7....	N.A.C Book Update 2004Steve Richardson
Page 10....	N.A.C Members Profile.....Ian Mascall
Page 11...	Emberton Fishin 2004.....Graham Wilkes
Page 13...	Tackle Tarts Review.....The Burglar
Page 15....	Chairman’s Page.....Steve Richardson
Page 17....	Rigs, Bits an some Tips.....The Burglar
Page 21....	Internet Resources.....Tony Jolley
Page 24....	Catch Report 2003/2004.....Mike Brettle
Page 29....	Something Extra.....Contributed by Steve Richardson
Page 30....	In search of my Redmire Legends.....Damian wood
Page 39....	The last Word.....Damian Wood Editor
Page 40....	Eric the Eel cartoonJason Morgan

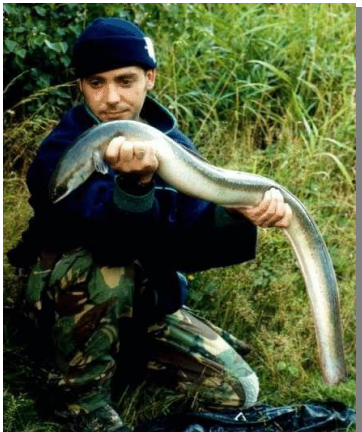
"Team Talk"

By
Jimmy Jolley.

Bulletin Team Members 2005



Pete "Anguilla Gorilla" Drabble
"Proof Reader"



Damian "The Burglar" Wood
Bulletin Editor



Jimmy Jolley Production

Hi everyone, it's a kind of a sad day for me, writing this "Team Talk" as it will be my last... As some of you will already know (from the AGM in April) I have decided to "relinquish" my role as Magazine Editor. I have handed the reigns over to Damian "The Burglar" Wood. I know he will enjoy the role as much as I did over the past few years.

It really was a hard decision to give up "doing" the club magazine, I've been involved, in one way or another since I joined the National Anguilla Club back in 1999 when Steve Richardson rescued, or as he puts it, "hijacked" the club bulletin.

When I took over the putting together of the magazine from its then editor Stuart Dean I couldn't understand why Steve had given it up in the first place... now I understand

completely.... The Bulletin of The National Anguilla Club needs to "develop"...and in my opinion... I was getting the publication in to a kind of "rut". I was getting stale, and it needed to move on, and I know Damian is the man to take "Anguilla" forward.

I'll be sad in a way as I've been in contact with so many of the membership through being editor of the magazine....the many phone conversations about articles from members...the many hours putting the articles together in to the publication... the digging around for "stuff" to bump the pages up...Oh how I'll miss all the late nights struggling to get it right...I WILL miss it ...honestly!

At this point I would like to thank a few members for their input in to my time as your editor... were to start.

Well firstly, I would like to thank the man himself, our new Chairman, Steve "Dances with Eels" Richardson for giving me the chance in the first place. If it wasn't for Steve I would never had been involved in the production of the club magazine, thanks mate!

Then there are the people I've had the pleasure of working with over the years... Stuart Dean (who sadly is no longer a member), Damian Wood and Jason Morgan for the work they have done for the magazine. Barry McConnell and Steve Ricketts for the numerous articles that they have written when I was short on material, one phone call and they would "come up with the goods", thanks lads!

Arthur J. Sutton and Nick Rose for all the archive material they have produced for "Anguilla", again, thank you.... it was

greatly appreciated.

To every member who has written anything for the magazine during my editorship... I thank you and keep sending in material.... After all “Anguilla” is YOUR voice when it comes to anything to do with eels or eel fishing.... Use it!!!

And finally, my brother Anthony “BT” Jolley for his “Internet Recourses” section of the magazine, again, when I needed material, he was there to provide it, thanks bro’.

So, that’s it from me for the last time... although I will no longer be involved with the editing side of the magazine... I won’t have gone completely... I’ll still be in the background, so to speak, as I’ll still be doing the really hard bit.... (Only joking!).... the printing of The Bulletin of the National Anguilla Club.... “Anguilla”.

So I’ll hand over this “Team Talk” to your new editor Damian Wood....Bye and enjoy this issue.

Before I continue with my first “Team Talk” I would like to thank Jimmy for all the outstanding work he has done in the production/editing of our club magazine, most of the time single handed due to other “Team members” work commitments. He has done a fantastic and most of the time thankless job with the Bulletin. Unless you are on the committee you will not imagine the hard work that goes into doing the above and in some cases beyond the role, mostly unforeseen work that goes on behind the scenes with out question, and is done to the deadline.

Now Jimmy will join the ranks of other members by seeing the mag for the first time when it arrives in the post so to speak, because at this stage of writing my section of the team talk even Jimmy doesn’t even know what’s in it since he past it over to me (Like a Pit-Bull with it’s masters clog!), something that the rest of the team will miss.

I have been involved in The “Anguilla” Publication roughly the same year when Steve, Stuart and Jimmy took over the production of “Anguilla” in one small form or another, and the magazine in this period of time has grown and improved in many ways from being a bulletin **for** the membership to a fully fledged eel fishing magazine **by** the membership.

Hopefully I will be able to continue this trend of developing the “Anguilla” mag to cater all the members taste (A big task I think) with Peter Drabble “Proof Reader” who has also joined the “Bulletin Team” this year, so welcome to the team Pete! I didn’t realise all these years how bad I was at grammar and spelling! No comment on that Jimmy!

At the moment the Contents will have some new editions that may hopefully become regular sections of the mag, to me at this moment its a case of “Suck it and see” approach to get some kind of consensus of what the members want as a magazine and not the Bulletin Team so to speak, but it has been said on many occasions before, input from the membership has to be done in order to get a club membership magazine, all we do is put it together in a readable presentable format and finally a hard copy and post it out.

Without your input Anguilla will become a part of the N.A.C. history books and not a part of its future! I don’t think some member realise how close it has been to not having a mag if Jimmy didn’t get on the phone and ask people for short notice articles. So get writing and send in your articles, any format and anyway possible to either me “Bulletin Editor” or Jimmy Jolley “Production” via snail-mail or e-mail as soon as possible as ‘we’ the Bulletin Team have to work to time bound schedules for production.

My e-mail address is damianns3@hotmail.co.uk hope to hear from you all soon and all the best for the season! And I hope you enjoy this issue of the only eel specialist fishing magazine available “Anguilla”

Damian Wood Bulletin Editor

EEL FISHING ON RIVERS

IAN MASCALL

Hi all – Well I had a phone call from our very own Mr Jimmy Jolley today, (29th January) and as we chatted he “insisted” I do a article for our magazine. So what’s it about then, well it’s about fishing rivers for ol’ Anguilla. As in all the years he’s been in the club he’s never once seen any info on fishing for eels on a river. Most of you fish for them in lakes, canals, ponds etc, but what if the only sort of waterway in your area is a river and you ain’t got any transport to get to ponds etc... Well for me I just had to have a go in my local River Tees for them.



Been interested in eels only recently 2003 ever since I caught my PB of 3lb 6oz and yes it was caught from my local stretch of the Tees, but I was fishing for chub at the time using mussels as bait, yes those mussels in jars from the supermarket or packs of fresh ones. The fresh one seem to work better due to lack of vinegar, but I usually wash them anyway, but don’t do what I did once and leave a opened pack in my rucksack for a week not knowing they were there...PHEW they don’t half pong after time, walking to the bin on there own, the shed was full of interesting aroma for a week afterwards. My eel outfit may seem a tad on the heavy side, but when a large eel decides to swim in a snag backwards you need tough gear...I have similar outfit for my pike fishing (yet to get one though).



Rods are 12ft Leeda Predator 3lb tc with Okuma specimen reels spooled with 15lb mono all I do is keep things simple, thread a 1oz bomb which is attached to a snap swivel on the line followed by a bead then a Protector bead for covering the hooklink swivel and a short braided hooklink of 30lb tied to size 6 or 8 barbless hook either for lobs or a headless roach which oozes out blood and guts etc. Some people say use a wire trace but others insist not too, I don’t like the idea of an eel with a wire trace wrapped round the body, as there’s not many pike where I fish I think braid will suffice for my needs...

When it comes to fishing using this I usually if enough room fish up stream with a bite alarm and fairly close in to the bank I find eels patrol these areas at night, which is the time I fish for them, because I seem to put a eel rod out when I fish for barbel at night...I know there’s not much to go on but this is what I do and it seems to work for me. Last year though I was ill most of a time and never eel fished only had 6 trips for barbel during the day. I hope the photos I sent to Jimmy will accompany this article’ they show two swims on the River Tees in summer conditions.

Lots of smaller eels are present to maggots, but I know there are fish to at least 4lb there waiting for me to capture them...Here’s hoping in 2005 it happens.

Tight lines everyone

MOOKIE.....Ian Mascall (Darlington).

Got My Head Back On!

BY
Malc "Lucky" Law

Did my first session at the back end of last season other than the fish in at Bolesworth castle? I decided to take my son Billy and myself to a good-looking water that has thrown up the odd good fish of 5lb+. (Wyreside fishery if you're interested). On arriving at the water Friday afternoon my new found enthusiasm soon got dented, with the news that every peg was taken, I guess we should have booked a peg.

So with a car full of gear and one moaning son, "what happens now? Why don't we go to Hudson's Farm instead?" utters Bill. As not to waste the weekend, we headed of to Hudson Farm. It's only 5 minutes away and cheaper to fish as well. (Good old Billy). So got the bivvy set up and gear out. 1 rod on live bait and 1 rod on tail section and Billy on the whip catching bait.

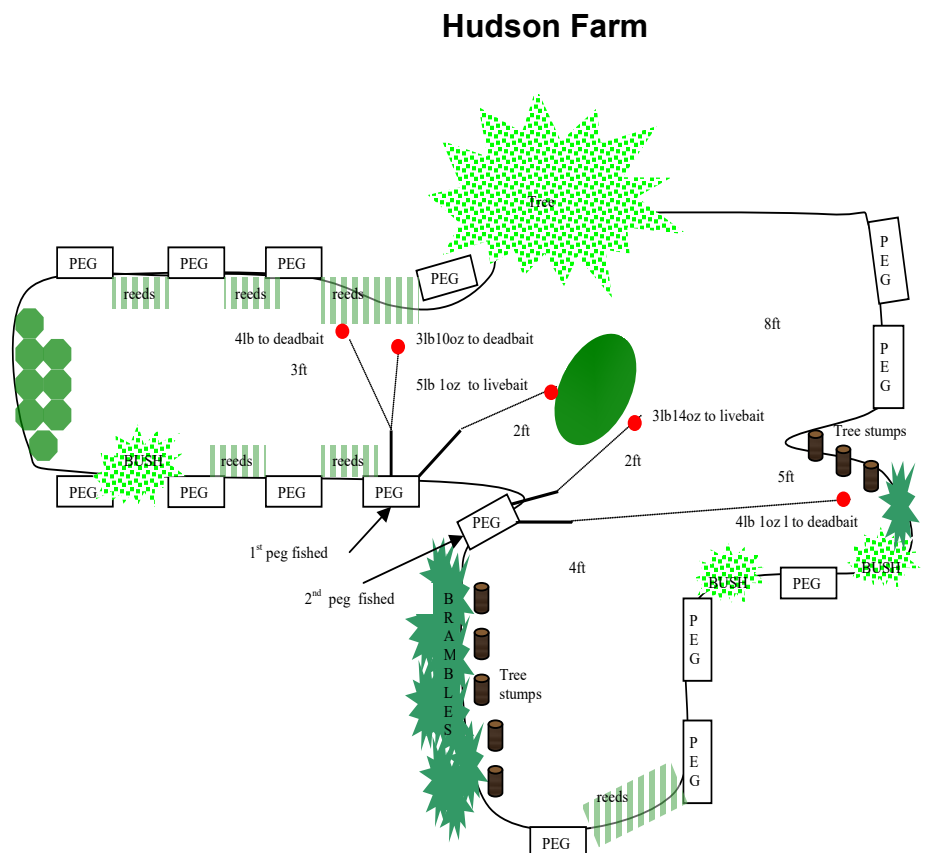
We had one run that night on the dead bait rod, a fish of 3lb 10oz measuring 34 inch long with a 6-inch girth. Not a bad start. The next day was spent in competition on the whip with Billy (we must have had over 300 fish). The next night was even better, with two fish being caught. One of 4lb on the dead bait rod and the other a 5lb 1oz fish, 38 inch long 8.5 inch in girth taken on the live bait. Not a bad comeback session at all.

Two weeks later we were back, on what turned out to be one of my most enjoyable nights eeling (now I know why I do it). The fish were not massive, a 4lb 1oz eel taken within 10 minutes of casting out a tail section in broad daylight (Could this be daylight water as well).

The next was a fish of 3lb 14oz taken on live bait at about 11.30 pm. I had a further 8 runs over the night, one of them ripping my rod out of its rests, connecting to a big fish but biting me off after a few seconds (could have been a catfish as there are a few to 20lb+ in there). A really memorable night in total

So as the article title says I have got my head back on for a serious assault on the water this season as I think it will throw up a biggie plus maybe a bonus moggy as well. If anybody fancies a bash as well give us a bell. Five fish caught in two sessions is not bad at all.

Bye for now Malc (lucky) Law.



Phases of the Moon Codes

**Found by the Burglar
Re-typed by June Williams**

Intro:

This piece was found on the internet by my self “The Burglar” to use as a moon-phase chart and thought that other members of the club could use to see why their captures happen on certain days of the phase just something to bare in mind next time you go out fishing, I have moon cycles up to 2010!

The table gives the date and time (Greenwich Mean Time) of all phases of the Moon for the indicated period. This data is provided primarily to assist in historical research projects. For the year 2000, the length of the mean synodic month (New Moon to New Moon) is 29.53059 days.

Delta T is listed in the last column on the right. This is the value used to convert Ephemeris Time to Universal Time (i.e. – Greenwich Mean Time) in the tables. Estimated values for other times are based primarily on historic eclipse records (past) or extrapolation of current rates (future):

The table also indicates whether or not an eclipse of the Sun or Moon occurs on the date in question and gives the eclipse type. Note that an eclipse of the Sun can occur only at New Moon, while an eclipse of the Moon can occur only at Full Moon. In any calendar year there are between 2 to 5 eclipses of each kind (solar and lunar, including penumbral). However, there cannot be any more than 7 eclipses in any one year (4 solar and 3 lunar, or 5 solar and 2 lunar).

Solar			Lunar		
Eclipses:	T -	Total	Eclipses:	t -	Total (Umbral)
	A -	Annular		p -	Partial (Umbral)
	H -	Hybrid (Annular/Total)		n -	Penumbral
	P -	Partial			

Algorithms used in predicting the phases of the Moon as well as eclipses are based on Jean Meeus’ *Astronomical Algorithms* (Willmann – Bell, Inc., Richmond, 1991). All calculations are by **Fred Espenak (USA)**, and he assumes full responsibility for their accuracy.

Definitions: from the Oxford English Dictionary.

Penumbral: An imperfect shadow, in an eclipse a partially shadowed region which surrounds the full shadow.

Umbral: A Region of complete shadow due to obstruction of light by an opaque object, ESP. shadow cast by moon onto earth during solar eclipse, or a darker inner region of sun spot.

Annular: Ring shaped.

2005									
Year	New Moon	Time	First Quart	Time 2	Full Moon	Time 3	Last Quart	Time 4	De
2005							Jan 3	17:46	00
2005	Jan 10	12:03	Jan 17	06:57	Jan 25	10:32	Feb 2	07:27	
2005	Feb 8	22:29	Feb 16	00:15	Feb 24	04:54	March 3	17:37	
2005	March 10	09:12	March 17	19:18	March 25	21:00	April 2	00:51	
2005	April 8	20:34 H	April 16	14:38	April 24	10:08 n	May 1	06:25	
2005	May 8	08:48	May 16	08:58	May 23	20:20	May 30	11:48	
2005	June 6	21:57	June 15	01:24	June 22	04:15	June 28	18:24	
2005	July 6	12:04	July 14	15:21	July 21	11:01	July 28	03:20	
2005	Aug 5	03:05	Aug 13	02:39	Aug 19	17:54	Aug 26	15:19	
2005	Sept 3	18:45	Sept 11	11:37	Sept 18	02:00	Sept 25	06:41	
2005	Oct 3	10:27 A	Oct 10	19:00	Oct 17	12:13 P	Oct 25	01:17	
2005	Nov 2	01:23	Nov 9	01:57	Nov 16	00:56	Nov 23	22:12	
2005	Dec 1	14:59	Dec 8	09:36	Dec 15	16:14	Dec 23	19:37	
2005	Dec 31	03:11							

With Respect "The Burglar".

NAC Book Update

July 2005

By

Steve 'eelfisher' Richardson.

"How many updates will there be to this eeling book of ours?"

"Who knows", is the honest and only answer I can give.

So, to those new members who have joined the club since the last AGM and haven't a clue what this might be about, the first question that needs asking is "What is it that Steve is going on about"?

Well, the simple answer is that 'we', the club, have started a project that will culminate in the NAC producing a book about eels and eel fishing.....eventually.....we hope.....he say's with a patient smile.

Everything starts with a beginning. This book is no different. Books need a title and hopefully we shall settle on one somewhere along the line. A possible title placed there by myself as a starter is.....

EEL FISHING
The complete package

A book about eels and eel fishing

By
The National Anguilla Club

I would ask / urge every member to consider a possible title to replace this 'starter' and forward their thoughts to me either via 'snail mail' or via the medium of e-mail. My contact addresses are listed on the members list, enclosed elsewhere within this magazine package. I will submit those titles to the NAC committee for their final decision on what we call our eventual book.

The history of the book project to date.....In the last magazine, I did an update as to where we were with the book project. I took the opportunity to offer my apologies for not having moved things along at that juncture.

At the autumn committee meeting I gave a further update to that situation and presented 'my' outline of how the book should / could look. ('My' outline, due to 'me' having been charged with the duty of getting this project off the ground.) I also took the decision to delegate some of the chapters work out to some of the committee personnel present at that meeting to get things started, so to speak. Those who were offered selected parts to write did so with a smile and a promise.

At the last AGM I gave yet another update as to where we were with the book. This time I was able to thank a few people for taking their promises and turning them into written material submitted to me over the winter months. I was also able to jolt a few people into remembering that they had work to do. I also asked everyone in the room if they fancied writing about any of the chapters that I had laid down and that if they did, they could do so and forward them to me for editing.

And so here we are yet another few months up the road to trying to build a written catalogue, which can then be edited and manufactured into a proud and worthwhile book about eels and eel fishing by the National Anguilla Club.

I am only too aware of how daunting this project appears to the eyes of many members of the NAC and of the hard work and effort that will have to be put into action to see this venture materialise. I have earmarked a couple of chapters for myself to write up but they will be better written when the majority of the book is completed. They need to be written in the mood of the general layout of the books contents. These particular sections are 'Dedication', 'The future of eel angling and the NAC' and 'Contributors to the book'.

So far, the book has a 'loose' contents section drawn up but this can be subtracted from or added to as we see how the book builds up. I have indicated by the side of each chapter those whom I have asked to write me something for the said chapter. However, their initial written contents will not necessarily be the completed chapter, as I am looking for contributions from other members of the NAC to amalgamate with what I already have. So if you feel that you have opinions and thoughts on any of the following chapters, then please, PLEASE, send them in to me for consideration and editing.....we are all in this project together. I am sure that I could have almost had this book completed if I had just gone ahead and done lots of writing from my data base and asked certain others to contribute as well. That is not the name of the game here; the book is to be written by the NAC. That means a membership collective and that means YOU getting involved.

The following is the loose contents set up.....and those members who were asked to do the initial write ups are named in brackets.

Contents

1. **Dedication. (S. Richardson)**
2. **Foreword. (Selected famous named angler)**
3. **History of the National Anguilla Club.(A.J. Sutton)**
4. **The life cycle of the freshwater eel. (A. Jolley)**
5. **The lure and challenge of fishing for eels. (B. McConnell and P. Drabble)**
6. **Tackle and Rigs. (D. Wood)**
7. **Baits. (N. Rose)**
8. **Anguilla Environments.
River, Lakes, Canals, Gravel/Clay pits, Ponds, Reservoirs, Meres. (Whoever fancies covering any of the sections)**
9. **Special Waters. (J. Davis)**
10. **Top 50 List. (Record Officer at completion of the book)**
11. **Memorable fish. (Selection of write ups of eels 9lb plus)**
12. **Barriers of the Journey. (Political round up.)**
13. **The future of eel angling and the NAC. (S. Richardson)**
14. **Contributors to the book. (S. Richardson)**
15. **Further reading. (B. McConnell and A. Jolley)**
16. **Winter eel fishing. (N. Rose and anyone else)**
17. **Social fish-ins and Gunge. (J. Jolley)**

I have received written submissions from members on the following chapters.....Symbols equate to my considered status of the chapter. ‘D’= Done. ‘S’= Started.

4. The life cycle of the freshwater eel. (Anthony Jolley. ‘D’)
5. The lure and challenge of fishing for eels. (Barry McConnell and Pete Drabble. ‘D’)
6. Tackle and rigs. (Damian Wood. ‘S’)
9. Special Waters. (John Davis. ‘D’)

So, if you want to be of a positive mind, the book has moved onward since the last magazine. However, it hasn’t moved on since the last AGM.

Can I take this opportunity to prod those members who said they would write up chapters for the book? There is no need for me to name them, as they can read who they are at the side of each listed chapter.....One or two may be surprised at their names appearing but they are my considered starters for ten at this juncture. Can I ask for their indulgence, ASAP (Or I’ll be forced into presenting this update at the next committee meeting, word for word.)

To end this particular chapter of the compiling of ‘our’ book project, I will repeat my last words in the earlier magazine update to encompass those who have climbed aboard since the last personnel check.

“To the book team.....brave men you are indeed to ride with me on this epic and groundbreaking venture. No co-ordinator could wish for better co-ordinates..... I thank you now, in advance, for your support and efforts in our quest.”

Nice photo

Nice inside cover drawing of the club badge and an eel picture.

(Maybe one of our drawings from a front cover of ‘Anguilla)

N.A.C Members Profile.

By Ian Mascall

1. N.A.C MEMBERS NAME... Ian Mascall

2. STATUS ... Single.

3. WHEN DID YOU FIRST START EEL FISHING... Seriously, 2003.

4. REASONS FOR JOINING THE NAC ... Fascinated in the life history of Anguilla, also the fighting capabilities.

5. FIRST EEL EVER CAUGHT... Too young to remember, bootlace about 6 inches long.

6. PERSONAL BEST EEL TO DATE... 3lb – 04oz from the river Tees.

7. BEST REMEMBERED EEL SESSION... Caught 12 eels to 1½lb on the river Tees back in the mid 80's. My friend and I were using the same rigs and he had 20lb of roach, I had 15lb of eels...he was 2 pegs away!

8. WHICH MONTHS DO YOU FISH FOR EELS... May to mid September.

9. FAVOURITE VENUE... Haven't really got one...I fish the river Tees the most.

10. ANY PARTICULAR BAIT PREFERENCES AND REASONS FOR THIS... For eels I suppose large lobworms on a J.S rig or Dyson rig ...due to the fact its near tangle free.

11. FAVOURITE ITEM OF TACKLE... Dyson rig...it's so simple and makes a difference for popped-up lobworms.

12. OTHER SPECIES THAT YOU FISH FOR... Chub and Barbel.

13. OF ALL THE SPECIES YOU HAVE CAUGHT, WHICH ONE IS YOUR FAVOURITE AND WHY... Barbel ...due to its fighting strength...Chub...due to its feeding preferences (ANYTHING) ...and of course , eels due to the fascinating species that they are.

14. ARE YOU INVOLVED IN ANY OTHER ANGLING ORGANISATIONS... The Barbel Fishers website, www.maggotdrowning.com .

15. ANY OTHER INTERESTS OUTSIDE ANGLING... Natural history and supporting Middlesborough F.C

16. DIS-LIKES IN ANGLING... Anti anglers...why stop something that is legal???. Litter louts, match anglers who are too "stuck-up" to share information. And finally non-licensed anglers!!!

17. HOW COULD THE NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB BE IMPROVED... I think that there should be a section of the N.A.C regarding people who river fish for eels...lots of eels are caught in rivers...so why not?...maybe a list of eel weights from rivers....Just a thought!!!

18. AMBITIONS, IN ANGLING TERMS... First double Barbel from the Tees (PB so far 9lb – 14oz, getting there)...A 4lb plus Eel...and a 5lb plus Chub.

19. DO YOU HAVE ANY ANGLING HEROES OR HAS ANYONE INFLUENCED YOUR CAREER TO DATE... John Wilson is simply the best, also Matt Hayes... both great men in this sport of ours.

20. DO YOU THINK THAT THE EXISTING RECORD OF 11lb-2oz WILL BE BROKEN IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IF SO, WHAT TYPE OF VENUE DO YOU THINK IT WILL BE AND WILL IT BE TO AN EEL ANGLER OR AN ANGLER FISHING FOR ANOTHER SPECIES...I



“Strange looking Anguilla”, Ian hasn't got a photo of his 3lb – 04oz PB eel...so I asked for any photo. This is a barbel of 9lb – 12oz from the river Tees.

doubt very much this will happen in the next 5 years or so...that was a very special fish...If it does go, I suppose carp lakes, with an inlet or a river close by might "do the biz".

Emberton Fish-in, 2004.

By Graham "The Jockey" Wilkes.

25th June and the first day of the fish-in at Emberton.

I had spoken to Nick Duffey earlier in the week, and we had arranged to meet at 7.00 that morning just off the M1.

We drove to Emberton and had a good mooch about and decided on a couple of swims. I snatched out some bait while Nick slept as he had driven straight from work. At about 11.30 Adam and Mark arrived. Adam was having a dig at Mark for sending them on a mid morning mystery tour round the centre of Milton Keynes and Mark was having a dig at Nick, for whom he blamed, as it was apparently Nick who gave Mark verbal directions.

Once the dust had settled and the air had cleared, we all had a welcome drink as the Stella miraculously came out. After a couple of bottles Adam and Mark went for a drive to find their swims.

A couple of hours passed and I walked off to find where Adam and Mark had decided to fish. They had chosen 2 swims both of which me and Nick had looked at earlier when we arrived. It looked better to me this time than it had 6 hours before so I moved. (And boy was I glad I did).

We spent the afternoon setting up and catching bait. As the afternoon turned to evening Adam suggested that I light the BBQ as he was a little hungry and that he would cook if I lit it. (A word of caution, if Adam Pettit ever offers to cook you a meal, say thanks a lot for the offer, make up an excuse and don't take him up on it.) Adam cooked some burgers all eight of them looked like they had been blasted with a blow torch on the outside but as icy and cold in the centre as the North Pole. We all declined a burger and Adam ate all of them but it wasn't long before they went through him like a Ferrari. It was decided due to the fact that nobody could be bothered to cook that Nick should go and get us all a Chinese, (good lad). We soon laid into that when it arrived.

The evening came and we just sat there drinking and anticipating what it would bring and it didn't bring a lot. The Olney church rang out at midnight from its spire which was lit up by spotlights. There's something about church bells striking midnight. Not only the eeriness but to me it seems to drive home the fact that the nights in mid summer are halfway through and daylight isn't far away.

12.05 a.m. The silence was shattered and the Delkim burst into life (nearly giving me a heart attack in the process). I watched the bobbin slowly ride up the needle, falling off and plopping into the mud. I reached for the rod, clambered up the bank and struck, straight away I felt solid resistance then gently it came to me. It wasn't until I came to net it that I realised how good a fish it was. Then the fun began. I just couldn't get it over my landing net enough to lift it. Four times I think I tried but there was resistance, on close examination I had crossed my right hand rod tip and the one inside of that and the other one. By now my heart was pounding as I was 4 foot away from a possible personal best. There was nothing left to do but throw caution to the wind I held the rod with the eel on it in my left hand and just scooped up the other 3 rods laid them beside the landing net and played the eel over it until she was

over it enough to lift it. What a **** up. I was so glad nobody was about to see that little episode. Once un-hooked I went and woke Mark up, (who incidentally snores like a pig). I told him that I think I had just broken my PB. He looked at the eel and asked me what my PB was and I told him it was 5lb 2oz and he said he thought I had. On weighing it, it was 4lb 5oz. It didn't break my PB but was still a nice fish never the less. Mark stayed and we made a brew he also helped me untangle and put right all of the mess of which I had created earlier on. He asked how I got in such a predicament and I just said don't ask but it would have been funny to watch me no doubt. So with 4 rods untangled, re-baited and recast we sat down put the kettle on and talked about the usual old rubbish as you do in the middle of the night.

Then a Delkim gave a single beep, "That a liner, that is" Mark exclaimed.

"No", I said "That's going to go in a minute you'll see".

No sooner had I said that and it roared off as happy as Larry, stripping line like it wanted it for its own, bale arm went over and whack. The rod arched over and the scrap started. I was fishing at 60yds so I had a few weed beds to negotiate. The fish knew exactly where they were and soon found them. Eventually I was getting the better of it and getting it closer to the bank. Remembering the last episode I asked Mark if he would do the honours with the net. He agreed but I told him that he must wade out to net it. In he got. I told him that it was shallow enough for him to go out almost another 3 feet (and luckily for Mark it was. Really I had no idea how deep it was!) Right she's in said Mark but as he lifted the net the eel slipped out. Three times that happened and by now the language was not the most polite. Mark had got the bottom of the net tangled up around the cord not enabling the net to open fully. He put his headlamp on which was about as much use as a one legged man in an arse kicking competition, it was useless. I reached for mine and turned it on. Then the side of the eel really could be seen.

"F**king hell" said Mark "it's a big bastard is that"

"I can see that" I said "Just get the ***** in the net". Twice more he tried and twice more she slid out. By now my cool had left me some 5 mins ago. "Just get that ***** in that net"

Third time lucky and she was finally on dry land.

"What did you say your PB was?" Mark asked.

"5lb 2oz" I replied

"Well you've pissed that" he said.

On the bank and bathed in the light from my torch it looked big, very big I knelt down over it pulled the net away from her and just gazed in amazement.

"What do you reckon mate?" I asked.

"Could go 7lb" Mark replied.

With that he shook my hand. I did the honourable thing and apologised for calling him every bad name I could think of. He said "Don't worry about it".

With the scales zeroed and the headlamp fixed to the dial Mark gently lifted the sling off the ground. 4lb then 5lb finally stopping at 6lb 9ozs. Was I chuffed or was I chuffed. Over the moon was an understatement. Mark called Adam who after waking up came over. He just felt the girth of the eel through the sack and by the choice word beginning with F of which he said about 4 times on the trot; he was as amazed by the size of it as I was (Who's the Daddy?).

6lb 9ozs shaking my head and looking up to the stars I just kept repeating those figures. Eventually after a few celebratory Stella's I recast all 4 rods again and turned in. I opened my eyes again at 6.30a.m. The sun was intense, I blinked a few times looked out of the Armadillo door and focused on what could only be described as a bomb site, there was all of the empty Chinese cartons all of the empty boxes of Stella and all sorts of tackle.

I got up to do a bit of tidying up when I realised that I had the eel to photograph. With the stove cranked up and the kettle upon it I went and got Mark and Adam to do the honours. They both arrived at my swim for the morning brew coupled with half a packet of Bourbons. All I kept thinking about was I just hoped to dear God that the eels had been OK in the sacks. With the camera ready and a nice back drop chosen I hauled the eels out of the water and up onto the grass bank. It was a great relief to feel them both thrashing about, let me tell you. Just as we were preparing the eels for the shots, the bailiff came over and was amazed to see an eel of such a size. He asked if we were going to eat it!

“No” I said, “We only eat carp”

Don't think he saw the funny side of that remark. He went on to ask what I caught it on and I showed him another 8oz Roach in the bucket ready to use. Now he made it more than clear that it was then OK to take a 60 year old eel home to eat but to use a two a penny Roach as bait was a different story. He asked for a photo for their public gallery I said no problem but I really meant not likely.

With the photo taken and the two eels returned we all settled down for another 24 hours of fishing. The day slowly passed with not much caught except a few Jack Pike and some more bait. The weather turned for the worse by early evening with heavy showers and high winds. So not much of a social took place on the Saturday evening as everybody was confined to their bivey's. The night passed with out as much as a liner. No enquires for the 3 of us at all. By 8.30a.m. On the Sunday we were all packed up and ready for the off. The final cup of tea was drunk and the last of the chocolate Bourbons eaten.

Mark and Adam said good bye as they got into the van then as they slowly drove off all that could be heard was the pair of them shouting “The Jockey's the Daddy”.

Graham Wilkes

The Jockey (The Daddy!)

"Tackle Tarts" Review



Damian “The Burglar” Wood
Self confessed “Tackle Tart”.

Hi to everyone in the best single species specimen group in the European nation the N.A.C. This section is hopefully going to be an on going section for the “Anguilla” mag. This is to get an honest “no sponsorship deal” review on some of the fishing products that are available to you that have been used and abused over a course of a season or so.

To start the ball rolling we are going to look at “Carp Transporters”. This has been purchased by myself and has been used this season up to know, it is something that I have been looking at know over the last couple of years to make life easier to carry all that heavy gear up and down the canal banking, making me more flexible and mobile.

As you already know there are two varieties you can go for the double wheel barrow or the single wheel barrow, with the two wheeler giving you more stability and will spread the load better, this is why I opted for the two wheeler version, so what is so fantastic about this barrow you are wondering?



**The Northwest Angling Centre
GSTWIN Barrow**

This barrow is made in Japan and as I can gather made for the Northwest angling centre banner this seems to be the trend for tackle shops at the moment giving the customer more choice at reasonable prices compared to the more expensive brand names out there providing the same production quality if not more!

This product boasts more features and accessories than other barrows costing twice as much! It is very well made with neat welding on the joints and they have taken the time to give a good package overall for the out standing price and how much does this baby cost? Believe it or not under £40.00 well actually £39.99, but the actual retail is £99.99 price. Now in anyone's book that's a real "Bargain"!



It has a recommend pay load of 150lbs and will carry everything you need for the weekend and more! It also has room for a barrow tidy and is compatible with most of the varieties available on the market. This barrow compared to other has locking pins on nearly every part of the barrow making it safe for transporting your gear and not bending in the middle or the legs flapping as you walk. Even when it is folded away it will fit in the car boot with the seats down or side ways, it does feel a bit on the long side when folded flat though?

One good factor is that you don't bang your shins on the leg bar as you are walking, but it would be better designs if they had been concaved instead of a straight bar, for maybe the more taller people amongst you.



The handles are made from non slip rubber and are very comfortable on a long hike loaded to the hilt.

Additional features:

This barrow is packed with various features that we are going to look at, it comes with an adjustable holdall rest, adjustable legs and the wheels can be dismantled with ease for storage in the car, also comes with centre brackets to attach bungee cords easily without lying on your back in the mud to fix them on.



They have a good diamond shape tread with robust hard plastic inner wheels, with the tyres being of the pneumatic variety, having an easy assessable valve adapter for blowing them up; it also has the recommended pressure guide written on the tyre.

The wheels are connected to the main frame with removable nuts, the only fault with this I can think of is that if they are not tightened correctly or checked before usage they could fall off in transport mode. This wheel arrangement makes the barrow very stable on flat, even banking or tow paths, on uneven ground this where it might falter to tipping over.



It has also adjustable back legs to suit everyone's personal height when bending down to pick the barrow up easing unnecessary back strain and works in the similar way as most bedchair legs with flat feet attached to a ball joint. And has a locking pin on the frame as shown in the photo so when not in use it locks into position and doesn't fall down all the time like versions from say the Chub range.

The whole barrow is spray painted dark green and is hard wearing from scrapes and scratches with a rust proof under coat, but how long this will last is debatable only time will tell.



It also comes with an adjustable holdall rest, which has inner screws with easy to hand knobs for those with bigger hands than myself this folds; this is the only part of the barrow that hasn't got a locking pin! As you can see it is a well made product at a price that is not unreachable (Being a Northern Cheap skate!). It is available from Northwest Angling Centre based in Hindley, Wigan. They also have a mail order service and a website at www.nwac.co.uk to get a contact number to make your order; if you don't have a computer then the number is **01942 255993** they have a reasonably good reputation on service delivery the only problem is that these are selling like "Hot Clog's" for obvious reasons in the Northwest and you may have to wait a couple of weeks for a new batch to come in,

you can reserve products if you wish too, they are quite good like that and do great deals on multiple purchases if you fancy something else from the northern stable.

One last thing is that this barrow is easy to fold away and will not trap those fingers at any point. If you are interested in getting one you won't be disappointed, the only thing I wasn't impressed with was the clip strap for tying your tackle down this was too thin very flimsy at the best of time and the clip was too small and popped apart very easily and I would recommend you to get some bungee cords instead to strap your precious gear down. Obviously carrier costs and packaging is not inclusive even so you are still getting a well made barrow for a good price!



Well that is it for the first "Tackle Tarts" review and hope you have enjoyed it. If any of you have an item of tackle that you wish to review to other members no matter how big or small from main items of tackle to rig bits, you can send it to me at damiansnig3@hotmail.co.uk to introduce to the mag!

Just remember to take decent photos and show the features that impressed you the most about the product and write about it. At this moment in time I haven't thought of anything for the next tackle review but it is still early doors yet so till next time good luck for the new season and tight lines.

The Chairmans Page

Steve Richardson

Monday, June 13th 2005my first Chairman's page.

How proud am I to be able to write this particular page within the club magazine 'Anguilla'?????.....very, very, very proud.

For those of you who do not know me, I have held many positions in this club over my long period of membership of the National Anguilla Club.

At the Annual General Meeting, Jimmy Jolley announced that he wished to stand down from the Chairmanship and, after some considerable debate to try and get him to reconsider his decision, which failed miserably, I was proposed and elected to the position of Chairman of the NAC.

As my first duty in this honoured and trusted position, I would like to offer my thanks to our out-going Chairman, Mr. Jimmy Jolley, for his hard work and sensible guidance in keeping the NAC on a straight and clear course during his office. Jimmy is an awesome committee person and a man I call a 'friend'. Following in his footsteps is something I shall be honoured to do and I'll do it to the best of my ability.

The position of Chairman is a serious matter at meetings but is also great fun.....you get to put the 'check' on runaway mouths and quieten hijackers of issues. This should be easy for me to do now, as the biggest culprit of this course of action in the past has been none other than myself, if the truth be told.

Jimmy, Nick Rose and Kevin Huish, all of them past Chairman of this club whilst I have been a member, must have been pulling their hair out when my interjection into discussions took place....but they all treated me with a firm but fair hand and I respect and salute them all for their time in the position. If I can cover the position as well as they did and come out of it with a fraction of the memberships respect as they have done, then I will have done well enough to my mind.

Interestingly, the good fortune of being elected Chairman of this club I hold dear to my heart has been dented with the action of me breaking my right leg in two places, along with suffering seven line fractures of the tibia, resulting in me now having a large plate inserted in my lower leg along with ten pins.....which has, to put things mildly, put my spring plans of eel fishing my chosen stillwater out of the window....that will now have to become my autumn eel fishing target.

Unfortunately, I have also had to withdraw from the spring fish-in at Thorpe Park. I was really looking forward to attending that special water and seeing what I could manage. Hopefully, it all went well and everyone who attended caught some nice eels and maybe a monster or two showed up. (Written before the fish-in took place.) Thanks should go to John Davis for acquiring such a fantastic venue for the members to fish on.

I will be making every effort to attend the later fish-in at Richmond Lakes at North Hykeham, Lincolnshire on September 2nd, 3rd, 4th. I hope that many of you will also be attending. This water is a nice venue and it has a long history of eels. I fished there many years ago and caught eels on most trips, so I am confident that the journey will be rewarded for those who travel and attend.

The club now has a new President. This change came about purely due to Arthur unfortunately continuing to have severe health problems and not being able to attend club meets throughout the year. Our new President is Kevin Huish. The President's role within the club is as a figure head, a leading light. Given Kevin's past associations within the committee, he was probably the club's longest serving Chairman and he is a Life Member to boot, his position at the forefront of the club strengthens the very core of the National Anguilla Club.

The election of Kevin to President paved the way for the club to salute and honour the club's founder member, Arthur J. Sutton, with the ultimate accolade that the club can bestow on anyone, that being presented with the title of Vice-President.

I am particularly pleased that Arthur was elevated to this position, as I feel that the club needed to show it's appreciation to Arthur for his vision in creating the NAC all those years ago and for his input into the club over many decades. Arthur joins Kevin in this prestigious 'eeling hall of fame'. Both men have, in their differing ways, sustained this club in good and bad times with their selflessness and have

contributed to the club in many ways.....quite a few unseen.....by the membership as a whole. Both men live and breathe the National Anguilla Club.

As you will have read in the earlier newsletter, 'The eeling mail', we have yet another new batch of personnel who have committed themselves to working for you the membership by stepping forward and taking up positions on the committee. I welcome them all to the working section of the NAC and hope to see all of them attending committee meetings and performing their duties to further the continued forward movement of the club and to ensure that the good management of the NAC is continued. This committee, under my guidance, has been elected by the membership to serve them and we shall endeavour to make sure that come the next AGM in 2006 that we will have done everything that is expected of us.

The NAC is a club about sharing information within its ranks on eel fishing, social occasions, magazines and newsletters. However, never forget that the NAC is an institution within the angling arena, the oldest single specie group and one that is rightly respected by other angling organisations. This is our challenge, to continue to command that respect and to further the massive environmental moves made on our behalf by our political section / personnel within the club in the continuing arena of the declining eel stocks around our British coastline and our water systems.

I wish you all a good season ahead and hope that we all, including myself, manage a few eels to our rods in the months ahead. Good fishing to you all.

Rigs, bits and some tips?

The Burglar



This has come about by speaking to some of the N.A.C members on fishin's last year. A few questions were put to me about some of the rigs I have used in the pursuit of the fresh water eel, mainly how to make them and not being very descriptive on measurements of the hook lengths etc. At first I will start this off hoping that in the future you the members will contribute some of your own methods and rigs you use to other fellow members.

Don't forget each year we get new members who may be fresh to eel fishing and may need some guidance on methods and tactics and possibly even some of the more hardened eeler's amongst you too including myself?

The N.A.C is about a lot of things, an angling institution, a place to befriend fellow eel anglers and to share ideas and theories via the articles produced in the Anguilla mag, finally to show you the political work that we are doing as part of an alliance to protect our beloved species. The idea of this is to get other members to help each other and give tips/advice on all aspects of fishing for eels from their own personal experiences.

As I am a rig and tactics fanatic and unfortunately naff all else or yes there is blanking! I am going to show you how to make some of the rigs and terminal tackle by picture form to use or not to use, and hopefully answer some of the questions that have been put to me.

Anti- deep-hooking hook links:

This is something new that I have been developing over the last few months that originated from last seasons experiments. For me things have changed in my bait presentation from using the “Reversed Withy Rig”. Mainly down to the water that I am fishing at the moment. So we are going to look at bent hooks and extensions to hopefully reduce the deep hooking scenario.

1: Bent “Looney” extension hook-link (For use with dead sections and live-baits) with some variations for eel fishing.

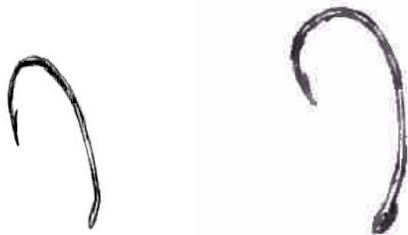


I will give you a list of products I use; the same effect can be done using wire also.

- 1: ESP Sonar 45lb braid or Armadillo 45lb braid, wire.
- 2: Fox bait bands.
- 3: Fox rig-rings and stoppers.
- 4: ESP G4 Raptor hooks size 8.
- 5: ESP Shrink-wrap tubing.
- 6: 1mm stiff silicone rig tubing.
- 7: Superglue.
- 8: Baiting needle and John Roberts hook tier.
- 9: A Set of forceps, pliers and sharp scissors.

Step 1:

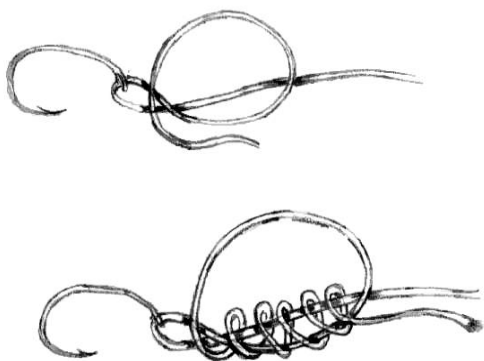
The hooks I like to use are size 8 in the ESP range but everyone has their own choice, if you are using wide gape hooks, then go for a size small to a size 10, the idea of this presentation is to cause minimal damage if an eel is deep hooked, a lot thought has gone into this as you will see.



The first step is to put a slight bend in the hook at the base of the shank holding the hook in a pair of pliers and slightly tweaking with your forceps, until you get the desired effect.

Don't worry this will not effect the strength of the hook, what it does is increase the hooking potential!

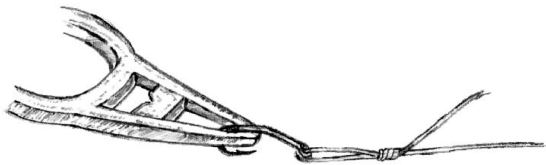
Step 2:



Next get a piece of your chosen hooklink material, I am using Kryston “Armadillo 45lb” Shock leader material of about 10 inch in length, it has a great abrasive resistance and comes in a dark brown colour, if you are using wire for your links then I would suggest using a knotless knot, yes you can do this with wire! And it won't come undone! The knot I use for braided hooklinks is a 5-turn Grinner knot.

After cutting the required length, thread the line through the eye of the hook, then, form a loop as shown in the first picture then thread the line through the loop five times, it is always a good idea to wet the knot then but to bring the knot together.

Step 3:



A good device to use for tying knots is from the “John Roberts” range a knot tester, they’re about £2:00 and worth it, it will test your knots and not over tighten causing strangulation. You can also use your forceps too. Wet the knot and tighten down on to the eye of the hook. The all you have to do is cut off the excess and you are ready for the next step.

Step 4:



The next step is to cut a piece of shrink-wrap tubing of 1mm size roughly half an inch long and thread on your trace, push it over the shank of the hook till it is just past the bend that you have put in. There are two ways of doing this, the first is to hold the hook in some tight forceps, and put the kettle on using the steam and pulling on the material you can create a bend in the tubing. The best way is to pour the water into a cup and pop it in the microwave for a few mins and use the forceps and dip it in the water to shrink the wrapping I have found this shrinks it better, **either way be very careful not to scald your self and spend the rest of the night in accidents and emergency!**

Tip: If you feel you have over bent the tubing I always give it a few tugs on the knot tester to get the right angle. Or you can re-dip it back in hot water and start again.

Step 5:



After this is completed next thing to do is to thread on your “Fox” ring and a small piece of soft silicone of 1mm. Push the ring onto the tubing and cap the end of the tubing off with the soft silicone. The ring just fits onto the tubing with just enough of a gap to go onto the next stage.

Step 6:



The next step is to use an eyed baiting needle and thread through the ring. Get one of the bait bands used for securing pellets to hooks, I use them from the “Fox” range but any will do. And pull it back through the ring until you have it half way through. As shown in the diagram.

Step 7:



Once you have pulled the band through thread it through itself and pull securely to the rig ring leaving you with a loop. This technically could be classed as an elasticised “Hair-rig” I suppose? The band is used in securing your bait to the hook as shown later.

Step 8:

After the bait band is attached the last thing to do on the hook side is to cut a piece of stiff rig tubing roughly about half an inch long and set the hook in the middle and slide it down to the rig stiff rig tubing and superglue into place. This “T” bar you’ve seen before in previous articles I have wrote in the past and acts as a stabilizer to keep the hook proud and prevents twisting when the eel takes the bait.



Foot note: Since this was written I have been using this hooklink presentation, and rattled a 4lb 10 oz eel from the L.L Canal, interesting thing is that it was nicely lip-hooked in the bottom jaw (A trait of bent hook rigs) and was probably hooked before I got to the rod, due to the way I fish. Another 1-1 hook up ratio and 0 for the deep hooking, something to think about!

Step 9:

Next is to tie a loop on the end of the trace, this can either be connected to your terminal tackle by “Korda” links or simply looped and threaded through the eye of your swivel making it adaptable to various lengths of hooklink to suit your fishing situation on your particular water and what bait you are using.



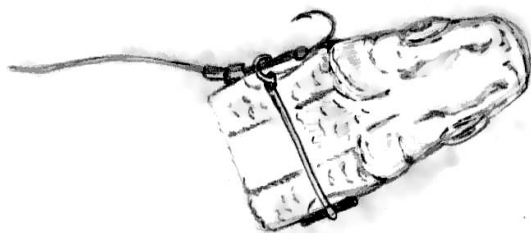
First make a loop with, then simply turn it twice round the trace and feed it back through the loop, wet and pull tight as shown in the diagram. I use the knot tester and a pair of forceps and give it a good pull to make sure the knots are secure, then as a safety precaution add a dab of superglue and let it dry.

Step 10:



And there you have it the final product, it should roughly measure about 6-8 inches in length, when using off bottom rigs, and can be any length if fishing on bottom ledgered tactics. This type of hooking arrangement would be ideal when popping baits off bottom or even critically balancing baits.

Step 11:



As you can see from the diagram the hook is lightly pricked into the dead section, and the band is threaded through the bait and a piece of tubing is put through the loop on the other end. Due to the elasticised band it secures the bait better for casting, and acts under pressure, when the eel bites down on it the bend and tubing make the hook bend further out resulting in a better opportunity of pricking the eels mouth instantly, preventing deep hooking, only in theory that is for the moment.

Best regards “The Burglar”



By
Anthony Jolley

Introduction:

Anguillacoli Crassus.

Many of you will have read within the recent issues of the bulletin the ever growing threat to the European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) from the nematode parasite *Anguillacoli crassus*. Recently there has been increasing press about the affects that this parasite will eventually have on the future existence of the eel.

I thought I would give you a little in the line of the biology of the parasite in order to give us a better understanding of it and its life cycle. There is a wealth of papers on the Internet, which go into the experiments, cared out on eels and how the parasite affects them, I hope that this piece will enable us as anglers to understand the single greatest threat to the future of the eel. I hope to continue in a later edition of *Anguilla* with more information.

Scientific Name: *Anguillicola crassus*

Other scientific names appearing in the literature of this species:

Common Name: Unknown

Distinguishing Features:

Taraschewski et al. (1987) describe this adult nematode as having a body covered by a soft, wrinkled outer cuticle. The circular mouth opening is small surrounded by 4 dorsolateral and ventrolateral cephalic papillae and 2 small lateral amphids. The anterior rim of the buccal capsule bears one row of 22, 24, 26 or 28 curcumoral teeth. The oesophagus appears strongly muscular, consisting of 3 lobes, expanding at its posterior half; anteriorly, the oesophagus forms 6 slightly elevated, rounded lobes protruding into the buccal cavity. The valvular apparatus of the oesophagus is well developed. Male worms have 6 pairs of caudal papillae; 2 praeansals, 1 or 2 adanals and 2 or 3 postanals.

Similar Species: Currently Unknown

Biology:

Anguillicola crassus is a parasitic nematode of eels (*Anguilla* spp.) originating in Southeast Asia where it is a natural parasite of the Japanese eel, *Anguilla japonica* (Kuwahara et al, 1974; Egusa, 1979). *Anguillicola crassus* is classified in the nematode suborder Camallanata, members of which always use a crustacean as intermediate host, often a copepod (Wang & Zhao, 1980). Many species of copepod and ostracod have been reported to serve as intermediate hosts for *A. crassus* (Hirose et al., 1976, De Charleroy et al., 1990; Petter et al., 1990, Moravec et al., 1993), but the parasite is also known to use many non-crustacean intermediate hosts. Thirty-three

species of fish belonging to 10 families (De Charleroy et al., 1990; Thomas & Ollevier, 1992; Moravec & Konecny, 1994) and at least one snail (Moravec, 1996) also act as intermediate hosts for *A. crassus*.

Life-cycle of the parasite: *Anguillicola crassus* is a parasitic swim bladder nematode of eels, *Anguilla* spp. (Kuwahara et al., 1974). The parasite's life cycle is a simple one which can be completed in less than 2 months under laboratory conditions (De Charleroy et al., 1990). Adult worms infest the swim bladder of its eel host producing thousands of fertilized eggs which pass to the intestinal tract then hatch during or after passage through the digestive system. The free-living larvae attach to the substrate by their hooked tail where they are ingested by copepods (intermediate host) (De Charleroy et al., 1990). The larvae molt to the third stage (the infective stage for eels) within the copepod (Thomas & Ollevier, 1989; De Charleroy et al., 1987). Infected copepods are ingested by young eels

(Lecomte-Finiger, 1983; De Nie, 1987) or by other reservoir or paratenic host species such as ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernua*), pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*), brown-bullhead (*Ictalurus nebulosus*) (Thomas & Ollevier, 1992; De Charleroy et al., 1990; Moravec, 1996). The larvae remain infective to eels for up to 2 months within paratenic hosts (Moravec, 1996). Larger eels whose diets consist mainly of fish (Tesch, 1977; de Nie, 1988) are likely infected by feeding on reservoir host fish rather than through ingesting copepods. After infecting the eel (final host), the parasite larvae pass through the intestinal wall and body cavity to reach the swim bladder, attach to the swim bladder wall, feed on blood and grow to sexual maturity (DeCharleroy et al., 1990).

Eels infected by *A. crassus* develop a disease called anguillicolosis, and causes hemorrhagic lesions, fibrosis and collapsed swim bladders (Haenen et al., 1994). VanBanning and Haenen (1989) study of the pathological effects of *A. crassus* on wild and farmed European eels, indicate that acute inflammatory reactions and fibrosis of the swim bladder occur in response to the parasitic infection.

Maximum Size:

The overall body length of males is 20-60 μm with females measuring 47-71.5 μm . Body width of males is .9-2.8 μm and 3-5.6 μm for females (Taraschewski et al., 1987).

Distribution:

Natural range: *Anguillicola crassus* Originated in Southeast Asia, and its natural host is the Asian eel, *Anguilla japonica* (Kuwahara et al., 1974; Moravec and Traschewski, 1988).

Non-indigenous range: The parasite was introduced to Europe in the early 1980's. In 1985 the parasite was reported infecting *Anguilla anguilla* in Belgium (De Charleroy, 1986). Within a short span of time, the parasite was transmitted to most European countries (with up to 100% infectivity in some localities). Both farmed eels and natural eel populations were affected (Paggi et al., 1982; Neumann, 1985; Kennedy and Fitch, 1990). It is thought that *A. crassus* was introduced to western

Europe by infected Asian eels imported for consumption and aquacultural restocking (Peters & Hartmann, 1986; Belpaire et al., 1989a).

A south Texas aquacultural facility rearing eels for the Asian consumer market first reported *A. crassus* in U.S. waters (1993, 1994). It is thought that elvers (juvenile stock) supplied by an east coast grower carried the parasite. When sampled, the Texas aquaculture population was found to be infected with *A. crassus* (Fries et al., 1996). (Specific identification of the eel host was not made, so it is not known if the south Texas infestation was of an American, European or Asian

eel species.) Investigation of the east coast supplier's stocks found one immature specimen of *A. crassus*. The infected individual was an American eel species, suggesting that the parasite may have had an opportunity to become established on the east coast (Fries et al., 1996). Subsequent sampling of native eels collected from 5 Texas streams turned up no evidence of the swim bladder parasite (Fries et al., 1996).

Interest to Fisheries:

Worldwide aquacultural production of eel accounts for more than 100 thousand tons and provides the great majority of total eel production (Johnson et al., 1985). The two principle farm species are *A. japonica* and *A. anguilla*, both of which are infected by *A. crassus*. Moller et al. (1991) believe that due to compromised swimming ability caused by *A. crassus* parasitization, fewer eels are able to reach spawning grounds resulting in decreases in natural European eel populations. *Anguillicola crassus* is thus considered a major threat to European eel fisheries (Hoglund and Thomas, 1992). In the U.S., measures to stem the spread of parasite will affect aquaculturists. Growers, importers and exporters face the potential for monetary loss from quarantine and crop destruction (Fries et al., 1996).

Current Status of this Species in the Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem:

Present distribution of the parasite in U.S. waters is not fully known (Fries et al., 1996), however at least one limited study indicates that *A. crassus* may be present on the U.S. east coast (Fries et al., 1996). Specimens of the American eel, *A. rostrata* were found infected during a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) investigation of a south Texas fish farm (Johnson et al., 1995; Fries et al., 1996). Subsequent sampling of five Texas Rivers found no indication of the parasite's presence in wild eel populations (Fries et al., 1996).

Potential Impacts:

It is not known how American eels will react to *A. crassus*, but infections in European eels suggest that the parasite is more harmful to new hosts than to its native host (Fries et al., 1986; Moravec and Taraschewski, 1988).

The rapid spread of *A. crassus* in Europe is understandable when taking into account the large quantities of *A. crassus* eggs typically found in the swim bladder of infected eels (sometimes originating from a single pair of adults) and the short period needed to complete the parasite's life cycle (De Charleroy et al., 1990). Another factor contributing to the rapid spread of *A. crassus* is that it is not particular about habitat or transfer hosts (Taraschewski et al., 1987). *Anguillicola crassus* is capable of surviving in eels in freshwater, brackish water, and seawater (Kennedy and Fitch, 1990). Introduction of even a few individuals of the parasite to new geographic through careless import, export and restocking practices can result in exponential spread of the parasite (De Charleroy et al., 1990).

Recommendations:

More work should to be done to establish the distribution of *A. crassus* in U.S. waters and its potential to parasitize native species (Fries et al., 1996). Chemical control measures have proven largely unsuccessful (Traschewski et al. 1987; Hartmann, 1989; Geets et al., 1992). Kennedy and Fitch (1990) suggest that the best approach to limit the spread of *A. crassus* is through legislation regulating import and export of eels.

Regards, Anthony Jolley” Environment Officer”.

Catch Report

By
Michael Brettle

Well now the computer is up and running again I can finally get the report done for the 2003/04 season out the way. I would like to start by apologising to all the members for not producing the report for the winter mag. Therefore, as promised; here it is a mag late. But better late than never hay. First up is **Barry McConnell's** mini epic. Barry's first two eel came on the 29th April when he fished monk's pool using a dyson rig and lobworms. He landed a **1 lb 08 oz** and a **1 lb** eel at 01:20 and 03:40. Barry's method of fishing is normally the dyson rig and lobworms so for the rest of the return this will be the stranded method unless stated other whys. His next trip, again to monk's pool, was on the 4th May when Barry landed a **1 lb 14 oz** and **1 lb 08 oz** eel at 00:05 and 01:20. On The 6th May, Barry changed location and was to fish The Mere using a JS rig and lobs and at 22:05, it produced a **2 lb 10 oz** eel. On the 9th May, Barry returned to monk's pool where he caught a **boot**. On the 14th and 15th May Barry fished a water called Wheal Grey Pool. He caught himself a **1 lb** and **boot** eel. Landed at 04:00 and 01:12. On the 16th and 17th Barry moved to Busson Reservoir were on the 16th at 21:50 a **3 lb 12 oz** eel picked up his bunch of lobworms. Barry was to then fish eight more times at different venues until the 2nd June when, fishing Fionn Loch, Barry landed a **boot** on the JS Rig and 6 brandling at 00:20. On The 10th June, Barry fished a pool, which he calls the three gates pool. Using the JS rig and five brandling, he landed **3 boots** at 19:10, 20:50 and 20:52. He also caught a **1 lb** eel using live roach as his bait at 20:54. From the 16th to the 21st Barry fished a Remote Mere using the dyson and JS rigs. He caught a total of six eels weighing at **4 lb 14 oz**, **1 lb**, **boot**, **boot**, **boot**, **3 lb 02 oz**, **boot**, **boot**, **boot** caught on the JS rig, **1lb**. Their time of capture 16:20, 23:55, 00:10, 00:05, 00:40, 09:03, 01:05, 03:20, 00:35 and 01:15. Barry's next trip was to Easy Mere on the 24th June to the 1st July. Were he caught five eels. **2lb 10 oz**, **4 lb 07 oz**, **3 lb 03 oz**, **4 lb 10 oz** and a **4 lb 07 oz**. On the 8th to the 11th, Barry fished Monks Pool. His first eel fall to a bunch of lobworms fished on the JS rig and was estimated at **1 lb+(E)**, **1lb(E)**, **1 lb 08 oz (E)**, **1 lb 08 oz (E)** dead perch, **1 lb 04 oz (E)**, **1 lb 15 oz**, **1 lb 05 oz dead perch**, **1lb(E)** dead perch, **1 lb 11 oz**, **2 lb** dead roach. For the next two days, Barry fished Sontley Pool where he caught **boot roach**, **boot**, **boot L roach**, **1 lb 11 oz L roach**, **1 lb 09 oz L roach**, **1 lb 14 oz L roach**, the next four were caught on dead roach. They must have eaten all his live roach up. **1 lb 02 oz**, **1lb (E)**, **1 lb 06 oz (E)**, **1 lb 04 oz (E)**. Then **2 boots** on worm. Barry's next venue was Lindisfarne. Where he fished from the 15th to the 17th. He caught eleven eels. **2 lb 02 oz**, **1 lb 12 oz**, **boot**, **boot**, **boot**, **1 lb 06 oz**, **1 lb (E)**, **1 lb (E)**, **1lb 14 oz**, **1 lb 11oz** and **1 lb 04 oz**. Barry then caught a **1lb(E)** on the 20th from a pool. Barry returned to Sontley pools for the 21st and 22nd. On the 21st, he caught three eels. **1 lb 02 oz**, **1 lb 04 oz** and a **1 lb 06 oz**. His next seven eels all came to dead roach and were all caught in the day. **1 lb 09 oz**, **1 lb 07 oz**, **2 lb 02 oz**, **1 lb 14 oz**, **2 lb 03 oz**, **2 lb 06 oz** and a **1 lb 04 oz**. From the 26th to The 30th of July, Barry fished The Mere where he was to have an eel per night apart from the 27th. **2 lb 01 oz**, **2 lb 01 oz**, **6 lb 07.5 oz dead roach** and a **4 lb 13 oz**. Barry then had a few blank trips, he is human after all, until the 10th August when he landed a **5 lb 04 oz** (dead perch fry) from The Clay pit. Barry Then returned to Monks pool on the 12th. Where he fished for three nights and caught six eels all bar one on dead roach. **1 lb 09 oz**, **1 lb 04 oz worm**, **1 lb (E)**, **boot**, **2 lb 01 oz** and a **1 lb 09 oz**. 16th to the 20th Barry fished The Clay pit again. Where he landed two

eels, both to dead roach a **2 lb 15 oz** and a **2 lb 14 oz**. Barry then fished the Easy Mere on the 28th and landed himself a **3 lb 11 oz** eel. Barry then had a few days off from fishing and was to return to his landing ways at Bolesworth on the 3rd September. Where he **caught 1 lb (E), 1 lb 12 oz, 1 lb (E), boot, 2 lb, boot, 1 lb (E), 1 lb (E), boot, 2 lb 04 oz and 2 lb 07 oz**. Barry's final fish for the season was at Sontley pools where he caught **1 lb (E), 1 lb (E), 1 lb 08 oz** and his final eel was a **1 lb 14 oz**. All of those fish were caught on dead roach. Barry fished a total of 72 nights and blanked 31. 17 different waters and 6 new ones. He had a total of 102 eels for the season. He says that the 5 lb 04 oz eel caught on the 10/08/04 from The Clay pit was the most satisfying as all the locals thought he was wasting his time "no eels in here. I've been fishing here for 50 years and never seen an eel" first night the five. That concludes Barry's return.

Next up is **Andy "the student" Atkins**. Andy's first eel was caught on the 6th June 2004 from Beaver farm fisheries. His method of fishing was the JS rig with lobworms as bait. It weighed in at **3 lb**. Andy's next three eels were to come from the Nickols Quarry fish-in, second day. Again, all to lobworms fished on the JS rig. **1 lb 08 oz, 1 lb 04 oz and 1 lb 08 oz**. Timings were 21:34, 00:42 and 01:30. Andy's next five eels all came from Beaver Farm fisheries. His first on the 12th August. Again, lobs and the JA rig (this will be the method for the rest unless stated). The eel weighed in at **1 lb 12 oz** and was caught at 22:00. The next four were caught on the 27th August and they came in at **1 lb 08 oz, 2 lb, 10oz and 2 lb 01 oz**. Andy then fished at the Bolesworth Castle fish-in. 3rd September. Where he caught three eels weighed in at **1 lb 10 oz, 1 lb 12 oz and 2 lb**. Time caught were 23:45, 00:45 and 02:30. Andy then returned to Beaver Farm fisheries on the 6th and 8th September where he caught a **3 lb 01 oz** and **2 lb** eel. Times were 04:10 and 21:30. Andy then fished a new water, which he calls the Kent Gravel Pit. This will be the water for the rest of the season. His first three from this water were caught on the 10th September using the JS and CD rig and lobworms and dead rudd as bait. **2 lb lob, 3 lb 02 oz rudd and 3 lb 01 oz rudd**. The next four were caught on the 13th September. Which may be unlucky for some but not Andy? All caught on dead rudd **3 lb 06 oz, 2 lb 08 oz, 5 lb 04 oz** Andy's biggest of the season and **3 lb**. On The 19th September, Andy caught three more. **1 lb 02 oz, 4 lb 04 oz and 1 lb**. Andy's final 2 fish were caught on the 20th September and weighed in at **1 lb 01 oz and 4 lb 09 oz**. So Andy caught a total of twenty six eels with his biggest being 5 lb 04 oz caught on a dead rudd. Fished on the CD rig from The Kent Gravel Pit.

Next up is **Adam Pettitt** whose method for this return is the Sidley rig. His first two eels of the season were caught on the 9th April from a Coventry Canal and using a roach for bait, which landed him a **2 lb 10 oz** at 21:15 and **2 lb 07 oz** at 21:55 Adam caught the next three eels on a Gravel pit on the 27th April using roach and lobworms as bait. They weighed in at **2 lb 07 oz, 3 lb 12 oz and 4 lb 06 oz**. Adam returned to the Gravel pit on the 4th May, where he was to catch two eels on worm that weighed in at **2 lb 10 oz and 3 lb 11 oz**. Adam then visited the T & M Canal on the 7th May and caught three eels all on lobworms. They weighed in at **boot, 1 lb 10 oz and 3 lb 13 oz**. Adam returned to the canal on the 21st May where he landed a **2 lb**. Adam then attended the fish-in at Nickols Quarry. Where Adam caught **six eels up to a weight of 2 lb 12 oz**, on a mixture of dead baits and worms. The 4th June saw Adam fished a gravel pit using dead baits and worms and caught 13 eel. With the heavies being **2 lb 11oz**. Adam then fished a different Gravel pit using a dead roach as his bait. On this trip Adam did not land any eels but did bag himself a **21 lb Mirror Carp**. Adam then fished a water that he calls Colditz Water. This was his first trip to the water and he landed an eel that pushed the scales round to **5 lb 02 oz**, not bad for an opener. Adam then returned to the Gravel pit and using worms landed himself a **4 lb 06 oz** eel. At the same pit on The 29th June using worms, Adam caught his seasons best. Which weighed in at 5 lb 10 oz. After a months break Adam returned to his catching ways on the river seven where he landed **three eels up to the weight of 1 lb 08 oz**. On the 3rd September, Adam returned to the seven where he had two more eels. Both of which were **boots**. His final eel of the season was to be caught on dead baits from the Birmingham & Worcester Canal. It weighed in at **4 lb 01 oz**. Adam caught a total of thirty nine eels this season with his heaviest was 5 lb 10 oz.

Next up is **Peter Drabble**. His first two fish was caught on the 15th April from the Grand Union Canal. He used ledgered dead zander and barbell to land a **1 lb 06 oz** and **3 lb 08 oz**. He returned the next night to land two more eels this time on half Gudgeon. Weighing in at **2 lb 10 oz and 1 lb 10 oz**.

On the 20th April, Peter changed to the Shropshire Union Canal. Where he used half roach and perch to net him self three eels. **2 lb 02 oz**, **1 lb 03 oz** and **1 lb 06 oz**. timings 21:15, 01:30 and 03:00. On the 25th April, Peter moved to a canal where he had **three boots** to ledgered half roach and perch. The 7th May saw Peter Fishing an undisclosed Shropshire Pool with ledgered lobworms and at 03:10, he landed a **5 lb 08 oz** eel. That concludes the return for Peter, but I am shore that peter has had more eels that that last season but I cannot find any more returns from him. Therefore, if he has I am sorry for misplacing his returns.

Next up is **Janssen Bostock** we think, as his name was not put on the return. If it is not his and it's yours let me know. His first two eels came on the 8th May to JS fished worms. They weighed in at **1 lb 08 oz** and **1 lb 05 oz**. His next eel was landed from a canal, which this time took a perch section that he was offering to the eels. It weighed in at **2lb** and was caught at 22:15. His next twelve eels were all caught from a Cheshire Mere using the Js and CD rigs. On The 16th June, Janssen caught two eels at 22:30 and 11:30. They both fell to rudd section and weighed in at **2 lb 02 oz** and **2 lb 05 oz**. The 17th saw Janssen land three eels on rudd section. **5 lb 03 oz** **His season best**, **2 lb 08 oz** and **1 lb 15 oz**. Janssen then had a month of from catching and returned to his catching ways on the 15th July. When he fished the Cheshire mere again using a dyson rigged roach section and netted a **2 lb** eel at 03:15. On the 26th and 27th July Janssen fished the Cd rig and landed a **2 lb 02oz** and a **2 lb 10 oz**. His next eel was caught on the 3rd August. When again, he fished a roach section on the CD rig and netted a **2 lb 11 oz** eel at 00:30. The 12th August he landed a **1 lb 15 oz** eel at 01:30, which took his CD rigged roach section. The 19th August saw Janssen return to the mere and this time he fished a JS rigged roach section and at 03:30 a **2 lb 06 oz** eels took his offerings. September the 3rd saw Janssen land his last eel of the season. It was a **1 lb 09 oz** eel that took his CD rigged worm.

The next return to be put into words is **Wayne Staddon's** return. His first fish of the season was taken on the 8th May from Olivers Oasis. Where he fished a mod JS rig. His hook bait was a worm. This combination landed **11oz**, **11oz** and **06 eel**. Timings were 21:20, 21:40 and 22:00. Wayne next to eels came from the G U Canal on the 12th and 14th May. Again fishing the JS rig, he netted a **2 lb 14 oz** (roach section) and a **3 lb 3.5 oz** (small roach). The 28th to 30th saw Wayne take part in the fish-in at Nicholls. Where he fished a running lead roach section and landed a **2 lb 06 oz** eel at 23:00 and a **1 lb 11 oz** eel at 15:00. Wayne then returned to the G U canal on the 8th June and netted a **3 lb**, which took his leadgered roach section. The next night Wyane was to fish the canal again and land him self his seasons best of **4 lb 11 oz** at 04:20. His next trip to the canal was on the 16th July. When he fished a JS rig with a roach section as his bait and at 22:20, a **1 lb 14 oz** eel took it. The next night Wayne moved to Wainfleet where at 22:00 a **14 oz** eel took his bait. The 21st July saw Wayne return to the G U canal and fished a running lead roach section and landed a **1 lb 14 oz** eel. Wayne's next trip was on the 4th August when he caught three eels weighing in at **1 lb 02oz**, **3lb 06 oz** and **4 oz**. Timings were 22:20, 00:15 and 03:00. The 19th August saw Wayne fishing the Monmouth and Brecon Canal where he used the JS rig and landed a **2 lb 04 oz** eel. Which took his roach section. Wayne's last three eels all came from Bolesworth Lake where he fished an off bottom worm rig and landed a **08 oz**, **06 oz** and **06 oz** eel. Wayne's season best was from the G U Canal, which weighed in at 4 lb 11 oz and took his small roach that was fished on the JS rig.

Next up is **Jason Morgan** not Janssen. His first eel was on the 15th April when he fish Black Rushes. At 00:50 his running feeder rig (that was full of chopped Gudgeon) tipped with gudgeon tail was taken by a **4 lb 07 oz** eel which was to turn out to be his seasons best and a new PB for Jason. His next eel was caught on the 20th April when he fished Taffy Bay with a live roach and a **2 lb 12 oz** (21:50) eel wolfed it down. Jason then returned to Taffy Bay on the 19th May when he fished a roach tail on a running ledger rig and netted him self a **3 lb 10 oz** eel at 22:40. It would almost be a month until Jason landed an eel again. 16th June was the date that his line was to go tight again with the weight of a **1 lb 13 oz** eel on the other end. The 14th July, saw Jason fishing a Place that he calls SBC and using a ledgered live gudgeon, he landed a **2 lb 09 oz** eel at 23:50. His next six eels were all caught from a place, which he calls Pontoons and his tactics were to ledger, a roach section. His first three from this place was landed on the 7th August and weighed in at **1 lb 06 oz**, **09 oz** and **09 oz**. His next was on the 15th August and came in at **10 oz**. The next night saw Jason

land two eels, which weighed in at **1 lb 4** and **1 lb 14 oz**. Jason's final two eels were caught at the NAC's fish-in at Bolesworth. Which both fall to ledgered worms. **1 lb 02 oz** and **1 lb 03 oz**. Jason's seasons best and new PB was the first eel of the season and weighed in at 4 lb 07 oz. Jason says that the rest of the season was a bit of an anticlimax but it is the most eels he has caught in one season.

Next up is the all-conquering **Graham Wilkes AKA The Jockey**. His first two eels were taken from Emberton on ledgered dead bait. The first at 00:10, which weighed in at **4 lb 06 oz**. This would have been good enough for most people but Graham went one better and at 01:15 his alarm sounded and a **6 lb 09 oz** eel had run off with his dead bait and with it all but two of the club's trophies for that year. Well-done mate. The 2nd July saw Graham returned to his old stopping ground the GT Ouse and again using dead baits as his hook baits he landed a **1 lb 12 oz** and **1 lb 14 oz** eel. The 11th July saw Graham push his seasons best with a **6 lb 03 oz** eel from the Grand Union Canal. His last two eels were caught on the 28th July from the GT Ouse. Where he used his tried and tested ledgered dead bait to land a **1 lb 10 oz** and **1 lb 15 oz**. 23:10 and 23:35.

Next up is **Damian Wood**. Who on the 4th June at 21:30 landed a **4 lb 01 oz** eel from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and only a few hours later landed a **3 lb 10 oz** eel at 07:30. It was until the 1st August that Damian had his next eel, which pushed; his scales all the way round to the **6 lb 04 oz** mark which came to mini dyson rig and a live perch. His final eel came at the end of the month, 21st, when he fished the A-canal and using the mini dyson rig with a roach head on the hook. He hooked him self a **3 lb 15 oz** eel.

Next up is **Nick Duffy**. Who has not yet got to gips with the postal service? As he thinks as long as a stamp is placed on the out side of the envelope and left on the side it will reach the right person. Well it was only a few weeks late getting to me with nick's special postal service. Nick's first three eels came from a Midlands Canal on the 13th April. When he fished ledgered worms and landed **2 lb 06 oz**, **1 lb 02 oz** and **1 lb 02 oz** eel. The 16th April saw a return to the canal when this time he used a roach head as his hook bait. Which hooked him a **2 lb 04 oz** eel. 28th to the 30th saw Nick fish the Fish-in at Nichols quarry. His method for the session was ledgered roach. Nick caught a total nine eels on that trip. **1 lb**, **1 lb 06 oz**, **2 lb 05 oz**, **2 lb 07 oz**, **2 lb**, **1 lb**, **1 lb**, **1 lb 04 oz** and his best for the trip **3 lb 09 oz**. He then returned to his Midlands canal on the 6th June. When again ledgering a roach section he landed his seasons best of **4 lb 11 oz**. He the fished Bolsworth and ledgered worms to tempt a **1 lb 02 oz** eel. Returning to a Midlands canal on the 7th September and using roach heads he netted himself two eels weighing in at **3 lb 01 oz** and **4 lb 11 oz**. His final eel of his season was to again come from a Midlands canal on the 24th September. Where this time he was to use a gudgeon head as his bait. This was to produces a **3 lb 05 oz** eel. Nick's season best was the 4 lb 11 oz eel he had from the midlands canal, which took his roach head on the 6th June.

Next up is **Peter Nunn**. Is first two eels came to him on the 11th June when he was fishing Livington and ledgering lobworms. His fist struck at 22:25 and weighed in at **2 lb 12 oz** his second was only five minutes later and that weighed **1 lb 03 oz**. On The 13th June, Peter landed three eels on single lobworms. They weighed in at **1 lb**, **1 lb** and **12 oz**. timings 20:15, 20:35 and 21:00. Peter then moved locations to a water called Decoy on the 20th June. He fished worm but not a single eel was to pick up his bait that night because the carp were there first and he landed nine **carp** that night.

Next for the write up is **Stephen Gardner**. His first eel on the bank came in June when he was fishing the S U Canal and ledgering dead baits. The eel that took his bait was a **3 lb 02 oz**. His second again in June was caught from a Cheshire mere and dead bait was his bait. This time it weighed in at **3 lb**. His next trip was to take him to a Yorkshire pit. Where on The 28th August he landed four eels, all taking dead bait which he ledgered. They weighed in at **2 lb 10 oz**, **1 lb 04 oz**, **3 lb 15 oz** (seasons best) and **2 lb 08 oz**. the next night at the same location he was to land the last two eels of his season, which pushed the scales to **2 lb 05 oz** and **2 lb 11 oz**.

Stephen Cotton is the next to enter the returns. He first fished the N.W canal on the 17th April when his method was to ledger a gudgeon head to temp a **3 lb 09.5 oz** eel at 02:19. The next night he returned to the canal and using the same method he was able to landed a **3 lb 06 oz** eel at 02:08. On the 23rd April again on the N.W canal. Stephen was to land a **4 lb 07 oz** eel that took his roach

head and a **1 lb 03.5 oz** eel that fall to his lobworm. His next eel was caught on the 8th May from the N.W Canal. Where he was to ledger a gudgeon head for a **4 lb 14 oz** eel at 22:10. The 17th May was to see Stephen return to the canal where at 02:18 a **2 lb 11 oz** eel took his ledgered gudgeon head. The 22nd and 28th had Stephen ledgering the gudgeon head again. This time he landed a **2 lb 15 oz** and a **3 lb 15 oz** eel at 21:40 and 22:30. Stephen then had a month off and returned to the canal on the 13th July, where at mid night he netted a **1 lb 08 oz** eel. The 23rd July saw Stephen move to a club water. This time a lobworm was his bait that caught a **08 oz** eel at 02:05. The 5th August saw Stephen land two eels on gudgeon head. They weighed in at **08 oz** and **12 oz**. The next night, 6th, Stephen was fishing the pole when a **4 oz** eel took his maggots. On the 21st Stephen returned to the club still water where he netted a **1 lb 20 oz** eel to lobworm. Bolesworth Castle was Stephen's next venue where on the 2nd September he landed a **12 oz** and **2 lb 06 oz** eel. Stephen's last two fish came to him on the 10th of September when he fished the Dyson rig with brandling on the N.W Canal. They weighed in at **1 lb** and **12 oz**. Stephen's biggest eel was caught on the 8th May and weighed 4 lb 14 oz, which he took from the N.W Canal.

Up next is **Tony Jolley**. Tony's return is a bit vague on dates so only a month or months given. His first two eels were caught in May from the L + L Canal. Where he fished a live bait on a dyson. This method landed him a **1 lb 12 oz** and **3 lb 05 oz** eel. His next six eel from the L + L Canal was caught in May to July. He used live baits fished on an off-bottom rig. The eels weighed up to **2 lb 08 oz**. His last was to come in August when again he fished an off-bottom live roach and landed a **3 lb 10 oz** eel.

Malcolm Law is the next to enter the returns. All his eels came to him when he fished Hudsons in August. His first was on the 10th when he fished a roach tail and at midnight, it weighed in at **3 lb 10 oz**. Malcolm's next two came the next night, when a **4 lb** eel took his roach tail and a **5 lb 01 oz** eel swallowed his live 5" roach. His last two were caught on the 28th when he fished a live and bead roach. At 19:00, a **4 lb 01 oz** eel swam of with his dead roach and at 23:45, the **3 lb 14 oz** eel had his live roach.

Next up is **John Davis**. John has sent me a very comprehensive return to me with all his trips on even the ones when he blanked. His first eel fall to him when he was fishing the T & M canal using a J.S rigged worm. The **2 lb 05 oz** eel struck at 23:10. His next eel was caught on the 17th May, again from the canal and using the same method. This time a **1 lb 04 oz** struck at 22:40. The next night the eel came at 23:40 and weighed in at **1 lb**. His next twelve eels came when John fished at Nicolls Quarry. With the heaviest weighing in at 1 lb 05 oz. The 6th June saw John return to the T&M and using a roach tail landed at **2 lb 02 oz** eel at 00:20. The next night John was using a swan mussel fished on a J.S rig when at 23:30 a **1 lb 14 oz** took his bait. John then fishes a few more times on the canal and it was not until the 14th that his rod was bent over again with the weight of a **1 lb** eel the eat his roach tail fished on the J.S rig. His last eel of the season was caught from the T&M canal on the 5th July at 00:15. This **1 lb 10 oz** eel took his worms that were fished on the J.S rig.

Next on this mammoth return is **Neil Wilkinson**. Neil caught his first and seasons best eel on the 19th May from a Surry Stillwater. Where Neil fished a roach head on the J.S rig. The eel weighed in at **3 lb 09 oz** and stopped the clock at 03:20. From the 28th to The 30th of May, Neil fished the NAC fish-in at Nichols Quarry. He used the J.S and Running ledger rig fished with worms and rudd. He caught four eels weighing in at **06 oz** (14:00), **2 lb 14 oz** (16.00), **2 lb 04oz** and a **1 lb 06 oz**. Neil then returned to the Surrey Stillwater on the 30th June. At 04:40 using a roach tail fished on the J.S rig, he caught a **3 lb 08 oz** eel. Bolesworth Castle saw the last three eels of Neil's season and using the J.S and Dyson rig he landed one eel of **04 oz** and **two** that came in at **1 lb 04 oz**. Neil say's that he blanked for eleven nights out of the twenty one that he fished.

Next up is **Nick Rose** whose first eels came at the Nichols when he fished a dead rudd to land a **1 lb** (E), **1 lb** (E) and a **1 lb 12 oz** eel. He was then to have a two-month break from catching eels. It would be the 13th August at 00:08 that a **2 lb 10 oz** eel swam off with his bait. Then about an hour later at 01:05, Nick was to catch his seasons best of **5 lb 07 oz**, which fall to his ledgered dead bait. The next night at 07:00, a **1 lb** took his worm. The 20th August saw Nick fishing at Pug wash pool. A ledgered pat was Nick's method and a dead bait on the hook. At 03:15, a **3 lb 15 oz** eel

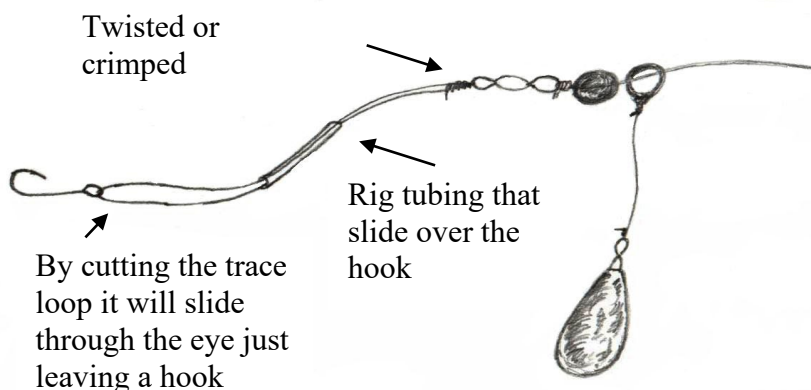
came his way. Then only five minutes later, a **2 lb 01 oz** eel took his live bait. On the 25th August saw a return to Pug wash pool for Nick where two eels took his live bait offering. They weighed in at **2 lb 10 oz** and **2 lb 06 oz**. Pug Wash pool was to be revisited on the 31st August and at 05:30, a 1 lb 08 oz eel took the live bait again. Nick's final eel of the season was taken from The Mere on the 29th September when he fished a dead bait on the ledger. It weighed in at **2 lb 04 oz**.

Next up is **Peter Shefford's** return that was sent to Jimmy, who kindly forwarded it on to me. His first three eels were taken on the fish-in at Nicholls Quarry. Where he fished the J.S rig with a rudd tail as bait. This was to produce a **1 lb 10 oz** and **two boots**. His final eel of the season, again coming from a NAC fish-in, at Bolesworth Castle when he fished the Dyson rig with worms and netted a 1 lb 08 oz eel.

Next on the returns is **Stephen Pitts**. His first eel came when he fished a Big Pit and used an off-bottom rigged worm to tempt a **3 lb 12 oz** eel (22:00) in to his net. July saw Stephen catch fourteen eels through out the month. With most coming from a Kent trip, between 18th and 24th. I'm sorry that there is not a lot of information but the copy has not come out that well at all. There weights were 4 lb 11 oz, 4 lb 08 oz, 1 lb 15 oz, 2 lb 02 oz, 2 lb 08 oz, 2 lb 04 oz, 1 lb 02 oz, a 1 lb'er, 1 lb 10 oz, 1 lb 10 oz, 2 lb 12 oz, 1 lb 15 oz, 1 lb'er and a 3lb.

Finally, the most pleasing returns of the lot not because I have very little typing to do but because these people have taken the time out to put pen to paper and let me know that they have not caught an eel for the season for one reason or another. This is a lot more than some people out there who catch eels and then do not share their achievements with the rest of the club. First is **Steve Richardson** who writes "blank- no eel fishing this season 03-04". Next are **Jimmy Jolley** who says simply "no eels this season" and **Peter Waterfield** who writes no weight again this season. The last return to close this report is mine **Mike Brettle**, well no eels to report as a result of a free holiday to the land of sand right over the prime eeling months. I hope to get more fishing done next season. Well that concludes the report for the season 2003-04 and hope you all catch bigger and better eels this season. Tight lines to you all and good luck.

Something extra



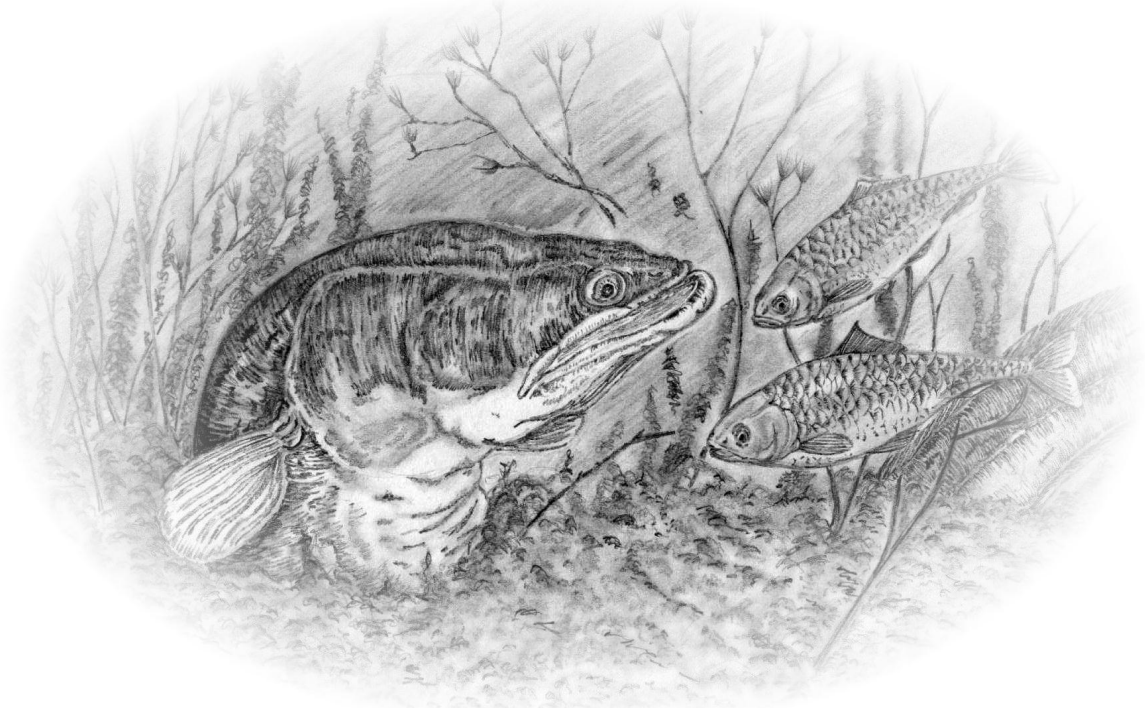
This was sent to me in the post from Steve Richardson talking to a non-member while fishing a gentleman by the name of Steven Williams, the idea of this hooklink is to try and leave the minimal hook and trace in a deep hooked eel.

As I can gather if an eel is deep hooked due to the fact the trace has a loop when it is cut all it will do is

leave the hook as safer alternative than trying to gouge it out causing more possible damage. This is possibly idea method for new beginners to eel fishing who are frightened of the thought of leaving traces inside eels attached to a hook. It goes to show that a non member is thinking of other alternatives to deep hooking and very little is put forward by existing members and eel fishing groups. Thanks for the idea Steve

In Search of my “Redmire Legends”

By Damian “The Burglar” Wood



It comes to a time in ones angling career to make a decision to move on to pastures new or stick to the same venue. It had come to ahead that the canal couldn't produce that special fish I had spent the last seven seasons in pursuit of, mainly the magical seven pound canal queen, or to even over-step my current personal best eel of 6lb 01oz caught in the 1999 season.

I had started the beginning of the season fishing the same canal managing a lot of blanks as usual for a small capture of eels even though they where very good fish one topping the 4lb barrier Unfortunately I was actually fishing for perch using 3lb line and a 1¼lb through action specimen rod! They were highly spirited fights to say the least and very welcomed fish too. But in my heart I felt my normal haunt had out stayed it's welcome, I needed to get back the feeling of discovery again only a new water would bring this feeling back a new challenge a new era.

The decision was made to look somewhere else to fish and start all over again searching for the mystery that eels can possess, enchanting us back to the same place time after time, a special place that we are all seeking out in our hearts. A special place with the potential to break personal angling achievements and encounter bigger eels than we have battled against before, it was time to look for my own “Redmire” legends.

Finding a place wasn't the hardest thing to do, I already had a water in mind, a water from my past when I didn't fish for eels but fished for the elusive big carp. The usual stories of big eels filtered from the water over the years with confirmed captures of eels over the six pound bracket including photographs that looked like the weight they portrayed with one in particular a reported eel which was found dead weighing eligibly a staggering 9lb 02 oz monster.

I knew that to beat my personal record this was the definitely the place to do it. But I was prepared for the blanks to outweigh the runs. Patience and virtue had to be the mind conditioning for this magical place.

This water was different to what I was previously used to fishing. The canal I had spent a long time on had very little weed growth or any pads, but this water was full of Canadian, pontomagon weed and lilly pads, but had no visible snags.

The water was crystal clear and full of small fish swimming in relatively large shoals, with the odd glimpse of the occasional large carp milling in the pads grubbing for snails or on left over bait from the day before.

I spent a bit of time walking its length peering into the depths looking for areas of fish activity and possible areas to place baits in the margin gaps between the weed beds and pads, checking the various depths and possible swims to try in the future to come.

The first swim I tried didn't produce any runs for about a month this area had immense weed beds and a depth of six feet on average the bait was easy to catch and in abundance, but didn't produce a single bleep! This has been left up to now to return to at a later date which will be next season to come now.

The second area I decided to fish had a lot of fish activity and was the same with the weed problem, but had an abundance of lilly pads to contend with; it had various interesting marginal clear patches among the heavy underwater vegetation. This received about a month of blanks until one fateful night, a night I will never forget, a night I lost a huge eel after an epic battle right at the net!

The battle of the Titan:

Returning to the same swim I had a feeling about the session, you know the feeling most of the time nothing happens but this was different. June was given the whip and started to catch the bait while I set the Titan and the rods up.

In front of me was a tree-lined area with underwater weed beds that stretched half way across the water and had a lot of marginal weed growth with various wisps of pontomagon reaching to the surface strangled at the base by silkweed.

I spotted a gap amongst the marginal weed placing a critically balanced perch head on a modernised J.S rig in a 2ft square area where upon I poured over a pint of dead maggots and six caps of an amino betaine oil based liquid attractor.

The other two rods were fished directly under the rod tips at angles using the infamous "Uni-rig" on various fish heads.

As darkness closed in the bats started to come out setting the time for the eels to materialise from out of their hiding places and start their patrols feeding on anything that appeared in their wake.



It had been quite warm in the daytime and as the darkness fell mist appeared over the water including the surrounding fields like a large cloak of chilling breath with the rods appearing as silhouettes from its cold grasp.

I must have dozed off for a while but awoke at the cry of a fox in the distance, I looked at the time on my mobile it was 00:30, so I poured myself a coffee and glances out at the silent rods zipping the bag up more snugly, it felt cold with a sense of eeriness of something waiting to happen, or was it simply optimism of fishing a new swim? My far rod fished in the margins broke into life and all I could see was the green and red glow from my alarm and the sound that prepares you for the battle ahead.

By the time I got to the rod it was silent, watching the line I could see it slightly twitch and under my torch light, picking the rod out the rest keeping the rod still low to the water I slowly pulled back on the line.

I could feel the eel writhing on the lake bed with its prize, with bail arm over, reeling at the same time suddenly the rod whooped around and the immense force of unrivalled power was met at the other end with my rod submitting under its control.

The 3lb test rod had met its match and I could feel the eel pulling my arm straight, I had to think fast and changed the angle of the rod putting side strain and walking backwards gaining line yard by yard. The eel came to the surface and showed its defiance at me by spinning and thrashing the surface shaping the surrounding water with its snake like form. I had to pull all the stops out: Never had I felt an eel fight like this before I new that this was a very large eel no question of that!

Scrambling for the net I immersed it ready dragging the eel directly in front of me, due to the clarity of the water I could see her in her full glory.

Trying to hold the net and with a large eel on the other end keeping control was quite difficult especially at the sight of the fish I had hooked adrenalin and fear had take over rational calm thinking and tried to pull the eel over the waiting net, but it still kept coming it looked towards 4ft in length with a large girth, then she started to spin frantically as I drew her over the cord.

At this moment the eel surged forward into the corner of the net spinning thrashing with mouth agape, lifting the net I could see the eel sliding back into the depths fading into a ghost shaped figure and the eel was gone. In the surge she had thrown herself into the meshing catching the hook into the net. I was shaking and gutted at the same time it took a moment to gather my thoughts and focus on what went wrong. The hook point had been folded over as it caught in the mesh when she span. I couldn't exactly put a weight on the eel but just an estimate on her length and girth she would have probably been about seven pounds just.



A 3lb 15oz early morning caught eel using float fished worm dipped in attractor while packing the eel rods away.



A 4lb eel caught at dusk on float fished worm using a 1¼lb test curve through action rod, both eels where self photographed.

It took me three weeks to forget that night and now is just a distant memory, but never totally erased. I had to think about the next session and how not to let it happen again. The fact that my net is large and hard to use alone, this had to be eradicated how came later.

A few more weeks of blanking had raised its ugly head again searching new swims and trying different sections. One day I got talking to a dog walker and he pointed me to a new point to fish that sounded interesting. When June picked me up we went further down the road to a different access point and took a quick walk along its length looking for ideal fishing spots.

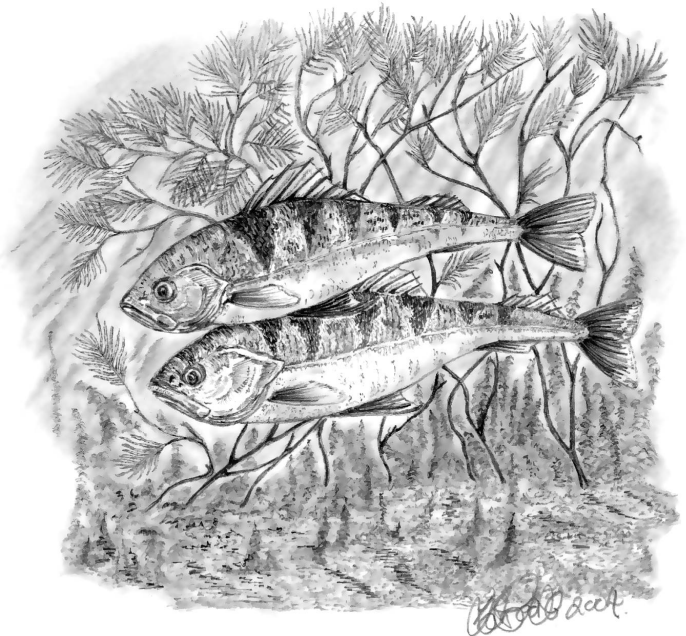
It was a very weedy area but interestingly you could see everything, because of this one thing I did learn after losing that eel was, there no physical snags just the weed so eels could be played under the rod tip and I had no need to rush a fish. I also acquired an adjustable pole roller for the net including modifying my net by attaching 12" pipe-lagging to the arms to help with floatation, the idea being to lift the net all I had to do was push down to land a fish using less force and could concentrate on playing an eel without little fuss.

Also in this period of time I learnt a bit about the population of eels and their preference to baits including how they liked it. I had to modify my rigs according, it came apparent that on observing small fish in their natural habitat they seemed to be quite low in the water hanging around weed beds sometimes just inches above the weed or lying directly on top, even on occasions head down motionless. It seemed the prominent species that occupied the water where perch as this is all you seem to catch on the float, or skimmers that are too big to use.

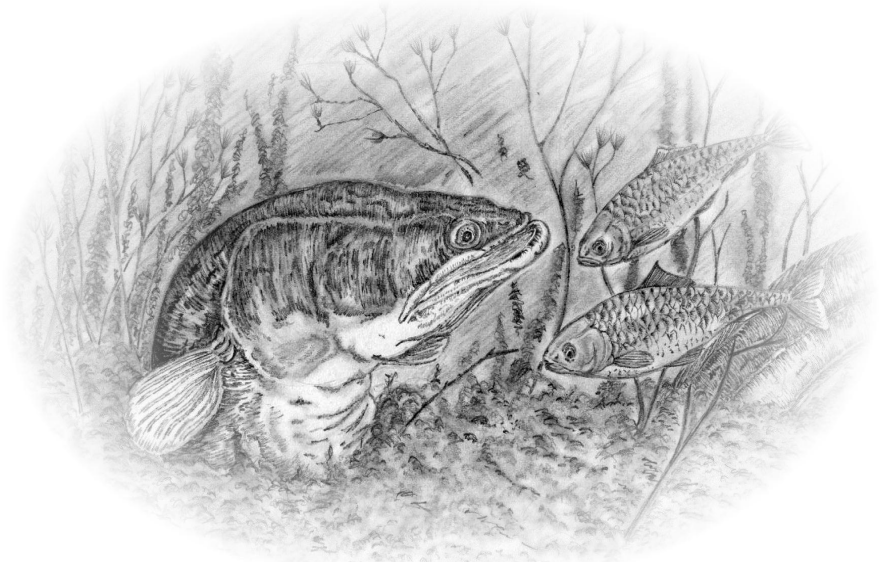
On this note I had a feeling that the "Dyson rigs" I was using were set to high up in the water and needed to be set lower with the bait hanging just above the weed. The eels must have been using tunnels or passages under the weed, attacking any prey fish as they came near a clear patch or ambushing its quarry through gaps in the weed.

I had to modify my Uni-rigs by incorporating a small ball float from Middy to stop the rig falling into the weed as I had gone back to running rigs unlike the fixed rigs I was using the season before. I was now fishing for new eels which may have received very little eel angling pressure, so there was no need to use advanced concepts yet only when the runs start to get twitchy or aborted.

As best laid plans the area I decided to fish had new banking then change for a 50yrd stretch to old stone wall and where the old wall and the metal constructed section met the banking was under cut creating a possible area for an eel to rest without disturbance in the day time.



As usual this place had been taken up by weekend boaters with loud music and generally shouldn't be in my swim. So I had to move further down.



The rods were set up and the next weekend went back to a new area to fish setting two rods on “Dyson rigs” on the pod and the other stand alone rod on the “Uni-rig”, two fished on live perch while the other fished on head section, cutting the canal off with my baits that June had caught while I was setting up, well trying to as June hadn't got use to handling fish at that time, so all I could hear was her flapping, turning round to her to have a fish flapping in my face as she swings it in, which she found very amusing.

Anyway that night came and the darkness set in. At about 01:00 a.m. I had a single bleep on the left hand margin rod but this didn't materialise until 03:00 having a take on the live perch which suddenly stopped, bouncing over to the rod, I picked it up and wound down until the rod bent round with that distinctive thud and bumping on the other end and I was in.

At this moment in time it was hard to keep calm and concentrate on just playing this eel, the first thought that entered my mind was that it didn't feel as hard fighting as the one I lost. How big it was I couldn't tell until I tried to net it and it kept coming over the net. First attempt I netted my lead with a large ball of weed, my heart dropped, quickly I threw the rod down dragged the net in and de-tangled my lead and the weed that had got stuck in the cord. Picking the line up with dread I started to gain tension hoping that my chance wasn't blown for the second time in as many runs.

Over she went again and I still had contact, I just let her bounce around under the rod tip until she came to the surface, submitting under my control for the first time in the battle, heaving her into the net my heart and adrenalin was still running in overdrive carrying her back to my swim for unhooking and weighing.

It was the first time I set eyes on her in her full glory, a good five was my first estimation then on second glance, my personal best could be renewed, putting her on the scales she weighed an impressive 6lb 04oz and a new personal best, next came the traditional “ Show me the money dance”. I sacked her for the photos in the morning and got the text machine in overdrive still shaking, still grinning like the Cheshire cat! Too say the least I was elated.

The long quest was now over, I had been waiting 5 years for this day to arrive and now it had, a sense of achievement had taken away the adrenalin and the years of blanking, the years of wait, only now again the quest would start again, the pursuit of another personal best eel.

This wasn't the end to the tale! Exactly one month to the day I took another eel from the same swim using “Dyson” roach head weighing 3lb 15oz, a welcomed fish at 02:45 in the morning and my last run to date on the new water this season. I will try and do another few sessions probably before the weather changes for the worse if not there is always the new season to look forward to with new areas to try but the learning curve I feel has come quicker.

Next year hopefully the things I have learnt about this water will grace further large eels to my net only time will tell! Maybe I will land that eel or even bigger specimens than the one I lost at the beginning of the season, maybe? I suppose we can live in hope I guess.

Things that I have learnt about their behaviour changing methods and tactics to catch some awesome eels, some as experiments with success well I didn't blank all the time!

Method & Tactics:

This year I have tried something different mainly using attractants and amino acid compounds or "Feeding Inducers" to try and attract eels to the area. At first I was using dead maggots only adding a small amount of ground-bait to absorb some of the moisture, but started to incorporate attractors and using them in P.V.A bags. The mixture I was using was made of various additives.

- Marine crab "Betaine" 10mls.
- Van Den Eynd "Predator" 20mls.
- Van Den Eynd "Worm Extracts" 5mls.
- Amino compound "Betaine" 20mls.
- Vegetable oil/ or ultra-marine oil (Used as a carrier).

Using a 250ml bottle the rest would be topped up using vegetable oil or marine or any other type of fish oil.

Second thing I looked at was using a ground bait to add the oil attractor too so that the attractor has a longer life constantly sending small bubbles of oil and sent, but not being experienced with match products I didn't realise how many different types there was or for various species or conditions.

Anyway all I wanted was something to just carry the oils and additive and opted for the old black magic type ground bait. I don't know why but I am a bit dubious of using bread/bran type ground feed mainly done to the colour being bright or it has a different smell compared to the dark black feed, it could be a confidence thing, but I have never had runs over conventional ground baits.

Other ideas on using attractors for eels is as I have mentioned before by pouring a few caps over your bait in the margins or by using P.V.A bags, perfect for fishing over weed beds as the bag floats until it melts, either used in combination with slow sinking baits, even using "Dyson Rigs".

I have read that using betaine additives are better for eels and using amino acids should be a good combination to use if it is affective or makes a difference on waters with low populations it is hard to tell or if it is effective at all?

This season has been not only eventful with eels, but it has been a new learning curve, in various ways.



A fish of Dreams at 6lb 04oz a new personal best eel taken from a Northern canal, she measured 45" in length by 9½" girth.

Rigs & Bait Presentations:

Rig 1:

It has been many years since I have ledgered a bait “J.S” style, but due to the canal having excellent clarity, baits could be presented in small clear patches in the margins a ledger bait could be used, but using

popped up baits or “Critically balanced” baits presented in bags with oil and dead maggots.

But knowing me I don’t use a conventional “J.S Rig” because with all the new tech terminal tackle and

materials at our disposal I have up-dated it for my specific needs and requirements.

A list of components will follow shortly with measurements and descriptions of why the material

has been chosen

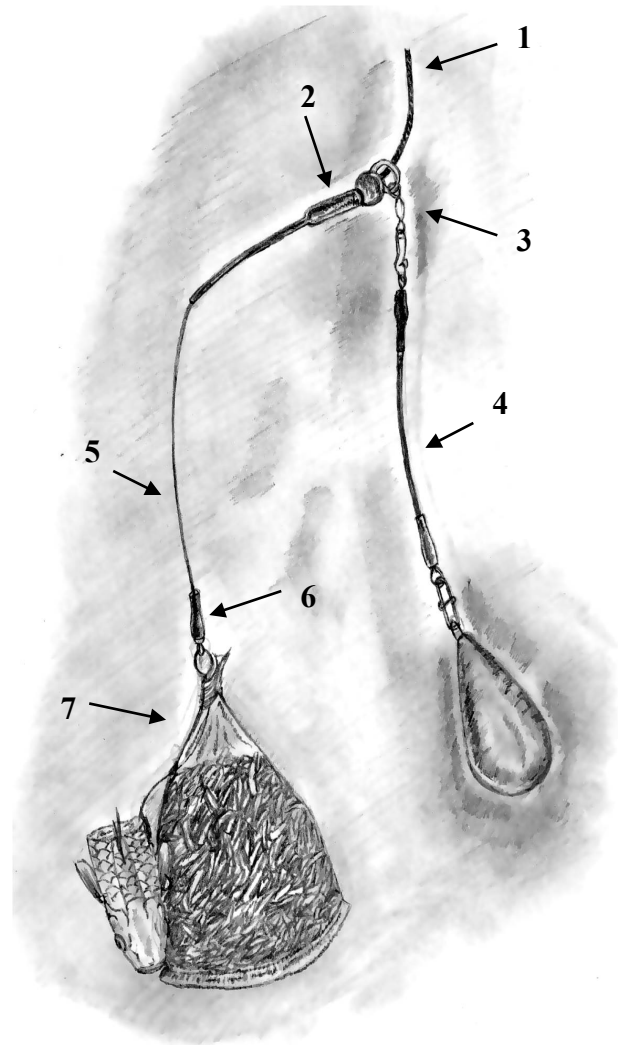
1: 45lb E.S.P leadcore, this is roughly about 18” long, is highly abrasive resistant and prevents the eel from tangling the mainline when in the net as well as terminal tangles.

2: Korda in-line insert, not used for what it is made for inserting in in-line leads, but it a great anti-tangle additive to your setup especially in the use of live baits or fishing at distance. In front of this is an E.S.P shock bead.

3: Either using Korda, E.S.P or Solar swivel run-rings 35lb BS. This has a snap link to attach lead links too, or simply the lead itself.

4: This ledger link is made from E.S.P rig tubing roughly about 4”-6” long, with line tied through the centre with silicone tubing over the swivels. At one end a snap link is attached for the leads, which are Korda long range leads ranging between 2¾oz-3oz.

5: This section of the rig is 45lb leadcore roughly about 10” in length with a ring swivel attached at one end and a loop at the other which connects to the Korda link underneath the in-line lead tubing from Korda mentioned in 2. The weight of the lead core counterbalances the bait which has a section of foam inserted inside, so there is no need for pop-up weights. This allows the bait to gently drop onto weed and the bait won’t sink into it. This is because P.V.A bags float the rig until it dissolves and presents the bait excellently for the eel to easily find in moderate weed. An ingenious method that is very effective, when the situation calls for it, this technique is very similar to the “Hinge Rig”.



6: At the end of the hinge-link is an E.S.P. ring swivel with a piece of silicone tubing to protect the loop both ends of the lead-core have been spliced and super-glued to be multi-functional and easy to change. The hook-link rig end has a loop on the end where upon it is passed the “O” of the swivel and threaded back on its self again for inter-changeability.

7: The whole of the hook-link is passed through a P.V.A. bag with added oil, dead maggots, or protein additive, with the fish-bait hooked on the out side of the bag and is ready to cast. The whole rig is free running.

Rig 2:

Mini Dyson Rig:

By know you should be familiar with the “Dyson Rig” and the usage I have got out of it including the fish that I have personally taken on it.

The only difference from this setup from previous is that it had been set and measured to only present baits at the right height above the weed due to the particular feeding or hunting methods used by the eel population the full length of the rig is about 25 inches.

The other difference is the bait that I have been using to catch these eels which has been section deads and live-baits compared to fishing worms on fixed rigs the year before this is a free-running rig, with the instant-hooking mechanism being the drop-off indicator clips explained in the last article I wrote.

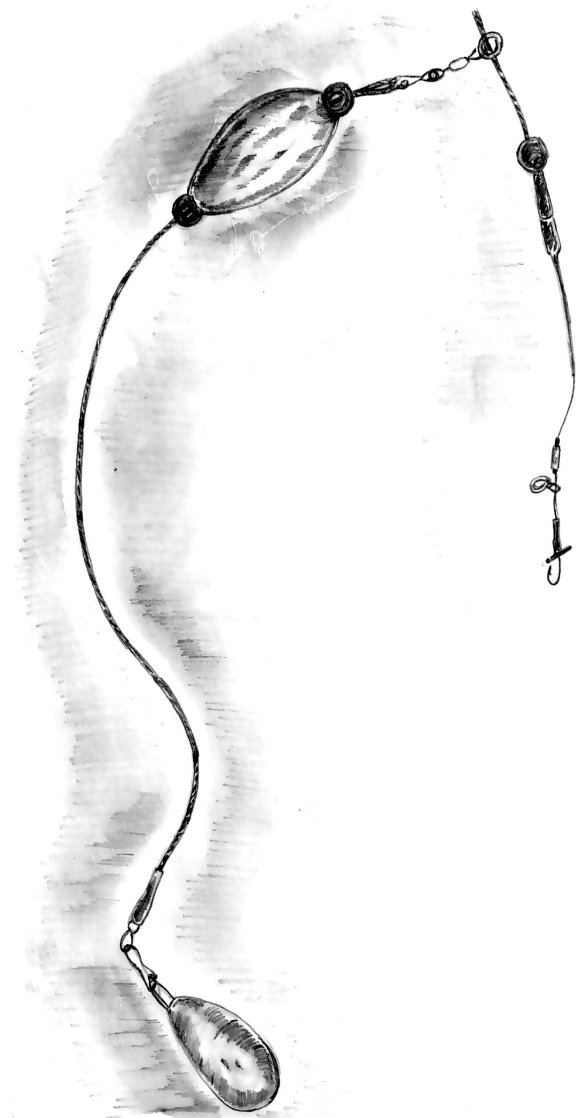
I have also incorporated the Korda inline adaptors for a more anti-tangle rig on the hook-link that attaches the bait fished.

The biggest difference has been with the hook-link I have used to present the baits this year, which I will go through later.

You find that the basic core of all my rigs is the “Uni –Rig” due to it’s diverse transformation into the magnitude of presentation I can perform to fish any bait any rig at any distance with ease and the convenience of having the rods set-up all the time.

Bait Presentation and End Tackle Setup:

This year I have mainly been using dead-sections or live-baits due to these eels particular preferences to their diet, there is no doubt that these eels are hunters and ambushes their prey as a first rule to attaining their food, secondly as opportunistic feeders on any item that they come across on their patrol routes. There have been two different hook-links I have developed for presenting deads and live baits.



Dead-section rig:

I use very small hooks compared to some other members of the club, using size 8's for fishing both with section baits and live-baits, these are E.S.P G4 Stiff-Riggers.

As you can see from the diagram this has some

interesting features for securing a section of fish and

keeping the hook proud of the bait making no reason to use large hooks saving the eel from damage if deep-hooking occurred.

1: E.S.P G4 Stiff-rigger size 8.

2: Stiff tubing acts as a T-bar to keep the hook proud of the bait after being hooked into the fish section.

3: This is a bait-band used for pellets, but this particular type has two holes, one is passed over the stiff shrink-wrap tubing, then a piece of silicone is placed over the end to stop the band from coming off the tubing.

4: E.S.P shrink wrap 0.75mm, which has been given a curve by holding it in boiling hot water and bent into shape. The reason for this to increase a more secure hold once the band has been threaded through the fish and a piece of tubing is attached, pulling the hook like a bent hook rig adding a better hooking potential when the eel pulls against a tight run-clip.

5: 45lb E.S.P Sonar Braid as the hook-link material, this is very abrasive resistant and flexible and adaptable, with a loop tied at the end for easy changeability.

The second hook-link was devised for fishing live-baits mainly, but can be used for either.

1: E.S.P G4 Stiffer rigger size 8.

2: Stiff silicone T-bar.

3: Stiff silicone tubing about 1 inch in length.

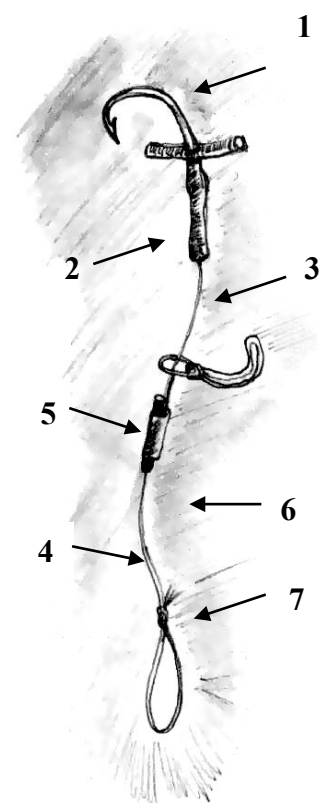
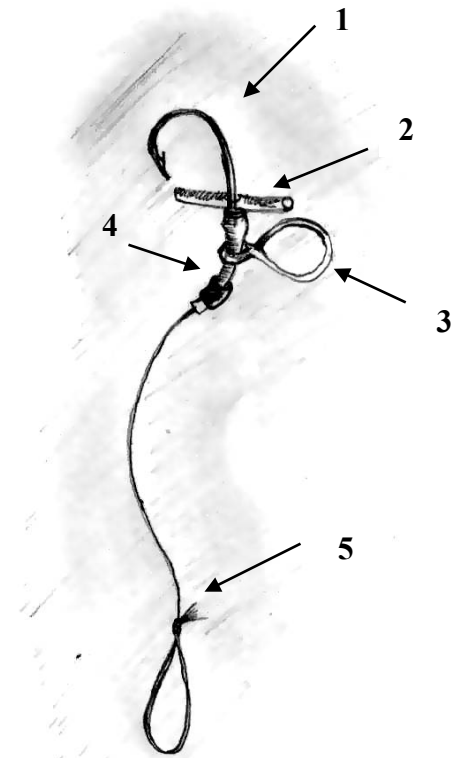
4: 45lb Sonar form E.S.P roughly about 6 inches in length.

5: E.S.P large oval rig with a bait band attached.

6: Silicone Stopper.

7: Tied loop and glued for security.

As you can see from the second image the hook is lightly nicked in the fish while the bait adjusts up and down the hook-link



dependant on the size of bait used, threading the bait band into the fish as shown this is then locked in place by a silicone stopper.

Conclusion:

As I have said before this season it has been an interesting one on all accounts, from discovering new methods and ways of catching eels, fishing in some fantastic scenery and catching some impressive fish including a new long awaited personal best eel. But more importantly enjoying fishing again as a pleasure and not as if it is a second job. Maybe because I am not getting any younger or possibly reaching that point in my life where wisdom (Ha!) has overcome putting the hours in for the same result, my approach to fishing has changed, even at times I could happily spend more time on the banking.

Hopefully next year I will be able to get back to the water, to continue developing new methods and tactics, learning more about these particular eel's behaviour and how to locate them better, but more importantly to continue to enjoy fishing in general at the same time.

I hope you have found this article useful as it may have something in it that you can use for next season to come to hopefully give you the edge and the opportunity of landing that special fish you have been waiting for.

Best Regards Damian "The Burglar" Wood.

The last Word!

Well this is the end of my first mag, working from start to finish and I hope you will enjoy the contents I have chosen for this introduction of "Anguilla". It has been at times enjoyable and other times pulling hair out situations, but a very interesting learning curve.

I am looking forward to doing the next mag but you have to send me stuff!!! I will apologise for those members, who have sent stuff and have not appeared in this issue, but don't worry you will be in the next one so till then tight lines and I will see you all shortly

Best regards

The Burglar



Eric was most unimpressed with HSBC's advertising campaign!