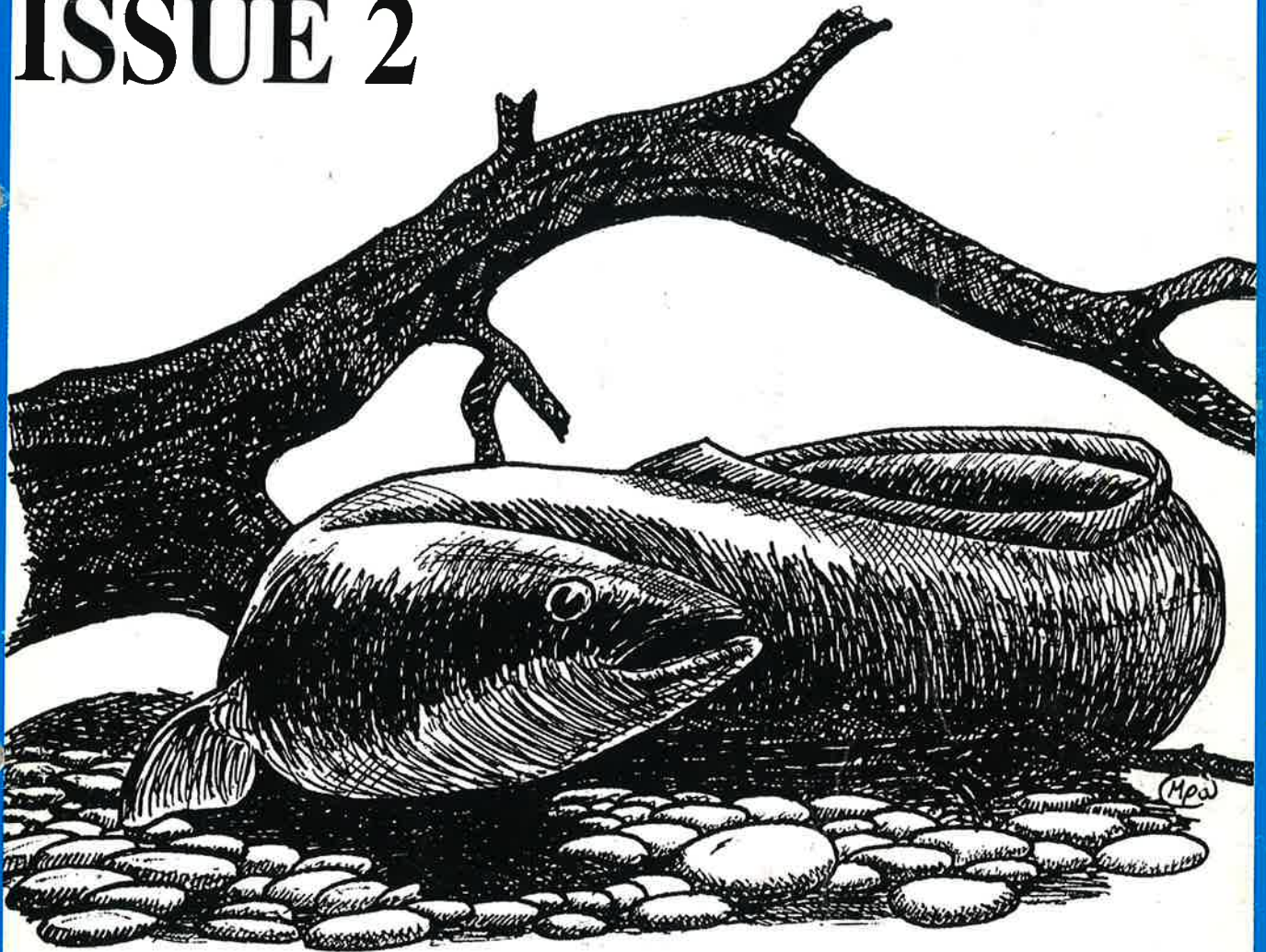


VOL 32 ISSUE 1

The National Anguilla Club



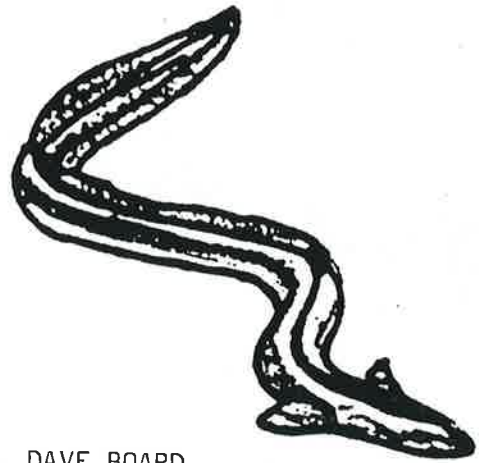
ISSUE 2



N.A.C.

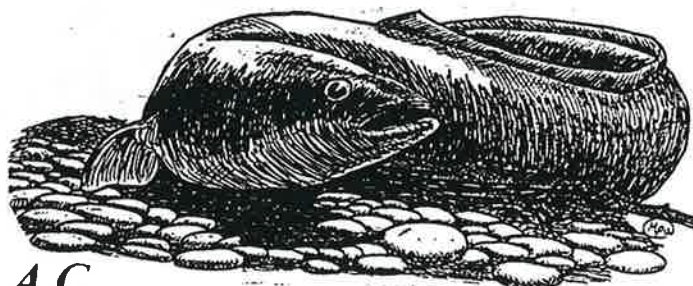
BULLETIN

N.A.C. BULLETIN



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N.A.C.

BULLETIN

Editorial

Welcome to my 2nd attempt at the N.A.C. Bulletin, the aptly named Issue 2. Hopefully, you will be reading this just as the season begins, if not then please accept my apologies.

The position of Bulletin Editor I was led to believe, would not be an easy one. How right they were! The amount of running around and obtaining quotes on its' production not to mention the endless hours of pasting-up and pagination involved, have seen the days turn into weeks and the weeks turn into months, etc., if you get my drift. Combine all this with moving house and having our third daughter (Evie Frances (Zappa) Board) and it's a miracle that I am as sane as I am (no comments please).

So what's happened since the last mag?

Well my plea for articles for this mag. was outstanding (NOT!) However, my sincere thanks go out to Steve & co., Nick Melling and our ever helpful Abigail. Also I owe a big thanks to Mark Andrews for his piece after I phoned him in desperation (cracking stuff our Mark!).

So I'll say it again don't sit back this is your magazine, get your name in print!

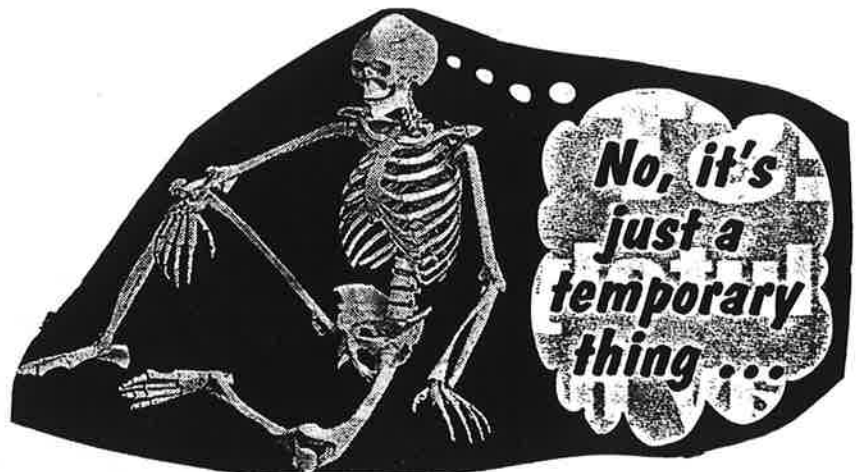
Adverts again need sorting out to help cover the cost of production. Please try and cajole your friendly shop, bait firm, plumber! Anything considered.

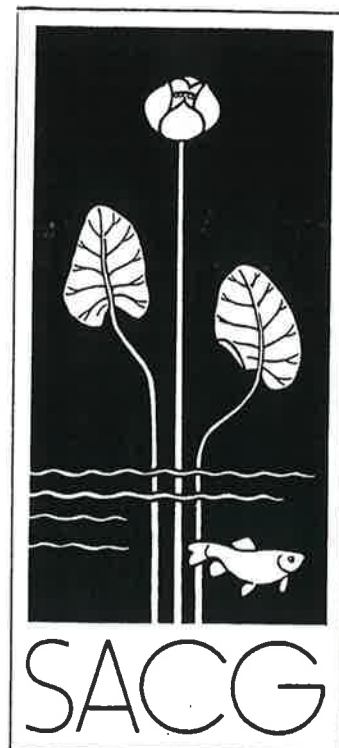
Sadly since Issue 1, I've had a few problems in producing the magazine as cheaply as before, owing to my friend sadly dying at Christmas. Hence we have reverted to photo copying the Bulletin up until a point where budget and numbers required dictate otherwise. Hope it all turns out alright and to our members' satisfaction.

Now I'm going fishing.

Tight Ones.

Dave Board
Bulletin Editor





N.A.S.A. AND S.A.C.G. NEWS AND REPORTS.

N.A.S.A. = NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SPECIALIST ANGLERS.
S.A.C.G. = SPECIALIST ANGLERS CONSERVATION GROUP.

I'VE PUT THE ABOVE WORDING SO THAT THOSE NOT IN THE KNOW...
NOW DO KNOW!.

N.A.S.A.

DURING THE SPRING MEETING FOOD BREAK, WHEN I WAS AT MY WEAKEST POINT, BRIAN CRAWFORD TOOK ME TO ONE SIDE AND ASKED ME IF I WOULD ACCOMPANY HIM TO THE NEXT N.A.S.A. COMMITTEE MEETING. (I THOUGHT HE MEANT FOR A DANCE)

AS IT WAS TO BE BRIANS LAST MEETING AS AN OFFICER FOR THE N.A.S.A., HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD MOVE TO BE ABLE TO INTRODUCE ME TO THE OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALLOW ME TO OBSERVE THE GOINGS ON WITHOUT THE PRESSURE OF BEING ALONE IN THE LIONS DEN, SO TO SPEAK. (WE ALL KNOW THAT I CAN'T TAKE PRESSURE.)

ANYWAY, I FOUND MY WAY TO THE MEETING PLACE. AFTER ORDERING A PINT OF STILL ORANGE, I TOOK MY PLACE AT THE TABLE, IN THE COLDEST ROOM I HAVE EVER BEEN IN...NO IT WAS'NT THE FRIDGE, IT WAS THE SKITTLE ALLEY. THIS IS THE MECCA WHERE THE MEN AND WOMEN LOOK AFTER, AND ACT ON BEHALF OF, THE SPECIALIST ANGLERS NEEDS. (IF, OF COURSE, YOU ARE A MEMBER..IF YOUR NOT THEN I THINK IT'S TIME YOU THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING..... ANGLING IS UNDER ATTACK, AND IF YOU THINK IT'S NOT,.. THEN YOUR KIDDING YOURSELF)

WHAT OCCURED AT THE MEETING THAT WAS OF INTEREST TO THE N.A.C.?????. WELL, THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER WAS NOT ALOT REALLY. HOWEVER, PIKE ANGLERS IN THE NORTH WEST ARE COMING UNDER MORE PRESSURE WITH BYELAWS REGARDING THE USE OF FRESHWATER FISH AS BAITS. AS EEL ANGLERS WE SHOULD BE KEPT UPDATED WITH WHAT OUR FELLOW PREDATORY ANGLERS ARE BEING SUBJECTED TO BY WATER AUTHORITIES, CLUBS AND LAND OWNERS, AS THIS WILL INEVERTABLY LEAD TO LIMITS IN OUR PURSUIT OF ANGUILLA ANGUILLA. IF YOU HEAR, OR ARE SUBJECTED TO, BANS OF ANY KIND BY THE ABOVE MENTIONED PEOPLE, THEN YOU OUGHT TO CONTACT MYSELF OR FELLOW N.A.C. MEMBER NICK MELLING AND WE WILL LOOK INTO THE PROBLEM. WE CANNOT PROMISE THAT WE WILL SORT THE PROBLEM OUT, BUT WE WILL GIVE IT OUR BEST SHOT.

I FEEL THAT ATTENDING THE MEETINGS WILL KEEP THE N.A.C. IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH EVENTS AFFECTING OUR SPORT AND, AS SUCH, WE WILL HAVE OUR SAY IN THINGS THAT GET DONE, RATHER THAN SAYING "I WISH WE HAD KNOWN ABOUT THAT THEN"...WHEN IT'S TOO LATE. *****THIS HAS GOT TO BE OUR AIM. IGNORANCE WILL GET US NOWHERE.

MIKE BURTON AND MYSELF OFFERED TO MAN THE N.A.S.A. STAND AT THE MALVERN SHOW, IN EARLY MAY, BUT THE ORGANISER WAS NOT PREPARED TO LET US HAVE A REASONABLE STAND SPACE. HE WAS OFFERING A SPOT 3ft BY 3ft. (WORK THAT ONE OUT, EH...MIKE AND I ARE BOTH SIX FOOTERS, I DON'T THINK WE COULD HAVE KEPT OUR FOOD PARCELS IN THAT SORT OF SPACE..KEVIN COULD'NT HAVE KEPT HIS 'SNACK' IN IT, THAT'S FOR SURE.) THIS WAS A DOUBLE BLOW REALLY AS IT WOULD HAVE GIVEN THE N.A.C. YET ANOTHER CHANCE TO

DISPLAY OUR PHOTO BOARD, THUS GIVING US AND THE FRESHWATER EEL MUCH NEEDED COVERAGE. OUR STAND WILL BE AT NEARLY EVERY EVENT THAT OCCURS IN THE ANGLING CALANDAR FROM NOW ON, SO IF YOU HAVE GOT SOME GOOD PHOTO'S AND CAN BLOW THEM UP INTO 10 BY 8'S, THEN DON'T HESITATE... SEND THEM TO 'THE CHAIRMAN' AND HE WILL UPDATE THE BOARD. SURELY.. "DON'T CALL ME SHIRLEY".. YOU ARE PROUD ENOUGH OF YOUR EELS TO HAVE THEM ON THE N.A.C. BOARD... SIZE DOES'NT COME INTO IT (CALM DOWN)... IF IT'S A FIVE (GOOD ON YER Mr PITTS) OR A PERSONAL BEST TWO POUNDER, WE NEED NEW PHOTO'S OK!,,, COS AN EELS AN EEL, AS THEY SAY.

THE N.A.C. IS NOT ABOUT BIG EELS OR BUST, BUT IT IS ABOUT THE CATCHING AND CONSERVATION OF FRESHWATER EELS. BE PROUD OF YOUR CATCHES, WHEN THE BIG ONE DOES SHOW UP WE WILL ALL SHARE IN YOUR JOY. WE ARE ALL HERE TO HELP EACH OTHER IF WE CAN.

LED ZEPPLIN TRACK... 'RAMBLE ON'.

S. A. C. G.

IT SEEMED TO BE THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP FOR ME TO REPRESENT THE N.A.C. AT THE S.A.C.G. MEETINGS ALSO. IN FACT, THIS IS PROBABLY THE VEHICLE FOR OUR CLUB TO USE TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITIES. NOTICE I SAID 'OUR' AND NOT 'MINE'.. BARE THIS IN MIND. IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS RELATING TO EEL ANGLING IN GENERAL.. NETTING, CULLING, NIGHT FISHING BANS ECT.

NOW, FOR THE PAST FEW N.A.C. MAGAZINES THERE HAS BEEN A NAME IN THEM THAT I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO PUT A FACE TO... WELL ALL THAT CHANGED AT THE S.A.C.G. MEETING, IN THE SAME COLD ROOM. (COME NEXT WINTER I'M GOING IN A THERMAL SUIT... GORDON CHELL PREPARES HIMSELF LIKE HE IS ON A SESSION, WITHOUT THE RODS.) *** THAT NAME WAS ONE NICK 'THE TASH' MELLING. THIS GUY IS SO ACTIVE YOU'D THINK HE WAS SITTING ON AN ANTS NEST.

WHAT DID I GET FROM THE S.A.C.G. MEETING OTHER THAN MEETING 'THE TASH'. ????? WELL, STRAIGHT AWAY I KNEW THIS WAS THE PLACE FOR THE N.A.C. TO BE ACTIVLY INVOLVED. I WILL KEEP THE POINTS VERY BRIEF. 1... SOUTHERN WATER ARE GUNNING FOR A ROD LIMIT OF TWO RODS ONLY. BAD NEWS,.. WHEN THE S.A.C.G. GET THE NOD THAT THEY ARE ABOUT TO TRY AND IMPOSE THIS RULE, EVERY SPECIALIST GROUP WILL BE SENT A LETTER AND HOPEFULLY EACH MEMBER WILL SEND THERE THOUGHTS ON THE MATTER TO SOUTHERN WATER. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THIS IS DONE, EVEN IF YOU LIVE IN NOTTINGHAM OR MERSEYSIDE (GOD HELP YOU ALL), AS ONE STEP IN THE DOOR COULD MEAN THE NEXT STEP BEING A ONE ROD LIMIT.

CHRIS BURT HAS TAKEN BRIANS PLACE ON THE A.C.A. COUNCIL. IF YOUR NOT A MEMBER OF THE A.C.A. THEN YOUR A DISGRACE TO ANGLING. (MY OWN PERSONAL THOUGHT.)** IT'S ONLY £7.00 PER YEAR AND IF YOUR WATER SUFFERS POLLUTION, WHO IS GONNA SORT IT FOR YOU IF THERE IS NO A.C.A. EH!??

ANYONE INTERESTED IN KNOWING HOW TO COPE WITH 'THE ANTI'S' IN A LEGAL WAY (WE ALL KNOW THE OTHER WAY, TROUBLE IS, YOU END UP IN COURT INSTEAD OF THEM) CAN AQUIRE THE 'ALL NEW DANCING... ANGLING ACTIVISTS HANDBOOK' FROM N.A.S.A. VIA ME OR NICK AT THE PITANCE PRICE OF £1.00. THE MONEY GOES INTO THE N.A.S.A. FIGHTING FUND. IN OTHER WORDS YOUR HELPING YOURSELF IN THE LONG RUN AND THE HANDBOOK IS FULL OF GOOD ADVISE.

CHRIS BURT WANTS ANY RELEVANT NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS REGARDING LITTER, BANS, ANTI'S, POLLUTIONS ECT SENT TO HIM, SO THAT HE CAN FOLLOW

UP AND HOPEFULLY STRAIGHTEN OUT THESE PROBLEMS. SEND THEM TO ME OR NICK AND WE WILL PASS IT ON TO CHRIS.

S.A.C.G. TEE/SHIRTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM CHRIS BURT AT £7.50. THESE ARE DARK GREEN AND LOOK THE BIZ. CONTACT NICK OR MYSELF IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.



The National Anguilla Club

THE S.A.C.G. WANT ONE OF OUR CLOTHE BADGES, SO THAT IT CAN GO ONE THE STAND AT SHOWS , LETTING EVERYONE KNOW THAT WE SUPPORT THE POLITICAL SIDE OF N.A.S.A. (I WILL SORT THIS OUT)

S.A.C.G. NEEDS TWO TRUSTIES TO DIRECT ANY FUNDS BACK INTO ANGLING IF THE S.A.C.G. FOLD ECT. THESE WILL PROBABLY BE BARRIE RICKARDS AND KEITH BARKER. (THE A.C.A. WILL BENIFIT FROM THIS, IF IT SHOULD HAPPEN??)

RECORD FISH COMMITTEE... N.A.S.A. ARE STILL TO TAKE THEIR PLACE ON THE ABOVE COMMITTEE. THERE HAS BEEN HASSLE AND HOPEFULLY IT HAS BEEN SORTED. IT WOULD TAKE TOO LONG TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAS GONE OFF, IF YOU ATTENDED THE N.A.S.A. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING YOU'LL KNOW ALL ABOUT IT.

EEL NETTING PROBLEMS... ATTENDING THE MEETING WAS A REPRESENTATIVE OF 'THE EEL STUDY GROUP', Mr STEVE PITTS. HE AND MYSELF EXPRESSED OUR DISGUST WITH HOW EEL NETTERS ARE GIVEN VIRTUALLY A FREE HAND AND AT HARDLY ANY COST, COMPARED WITH US 'THE EEL ANGLERS'. WE POINTED OUT THAT IT'S NOT JUST AN EEL ANGLERS PROBLEM, AS NEARLY ALL COARSE FISH ARE TAKEN TO MARKET WHEN THE NETTERS DO THEIR JOBS. PIKE AND CARP FIGURING TOP OF THE LIST WITH BREAM ALSO HIGHLY SORT AFTER BY FISHMONGERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH HIGH IMMIGRANT POPULATIONS. THE COMMITTEE FELT THAT WE HAD A CASE TO FOLLOW UP. CHRIS BURT ASKED STEVE AND MYSELF TO DRAW UP A PAPER WHICH EXPLAINS, FROM THE EEL ANGLERS VEIW POINT WHAT THE PROBLEMS ARE. THIS PAPER CAN THEN HAVE THE S.A.C.G. BACKING AND BE DISTRIBUTED AMONGST THE ANGLING ENVIROMENT. IT COULD ALSO BE PRODUCED AT CLUB A.G.M.'s, WATER CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS AND, AS SUCH, BRING PRESSURE ONTO THE EEL NETTERS AND THE WAY IN WHICH THEY OPERATE. THIS WILL, HOPEFULLY, STOP OR TONE DOWN THE RAPEING OF OUR EEL STOCKS AND ENSURE THAT ANGUILLA ANGUILLA CAN SURVIVE IN GOOD NUMBERS IN OUR WATERWAYS. THIS IS TO BE MY NEXT PROJECT AND WHEN COMPLETED I SHALL SEND EVERY MEMBER OF THE N.A.C. A COPY, FOR APPROVAL AND ALTERATION. WHEN EVERYONE IS HAPPY WITH THIS DOCUMENT, I WILL PUT EVERYTHING INTO MOTION. THIS SHOULD BE DONE IN THE MEMORY OF, AND WITH RECOGNITION TO, 'THE LATE JOHN SIDLEY'. AN ANGLER WHO WE ALL OWE SO MUCH TO, WITH HIS EFFORTS TOWARDS EEL CONSERVATION.

STEVE PITTS AND I ALSO DISCUSSED THE SITUATION BETWEEN THE E.S.G. AND THE N.A.C. STEVE FELT THAT THERE WAS NOW NO PROBLEM WITH MEMBERS WISHING TO BE IN BOTH GROUPS. BUT I ASKED HIM TO CONTACT KEVIN RICHMOND AND MAKE SURE HIS FEELINGS WERE ACURATE. HE COULD'NT SEE WHY WHAT HAS GONE ON IN THE PAST CANNOT BE FORGOTTON AND WILL BE SAYING AS MUCH TO KEVIN RICHMOND WHEN THEY DISCUSS IT. AS YET I HAVE HEARD NOTHING BACK FROM STEVE PITTS. I SEE IT AS THE BALL BEING IN THE E.S.G.'s COURT NOW AND AM NOT PREPARED TO KEEP CHASEING THEM FOR AN ANSWER. I'VE DONE MY BIT AND IF THEY FEEL AS STRONGLY ABOUT RESOLVING THIS SITUATION AS WE DO, THEN THEY WILL CONTACT US VIA MYSELF OR 'THE CHAIRMAN'. THINGS DO LOOK BETTER FOR THE FUTURE THOUGH.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE S.A.C.G. IS IN SEPTEMBER. SO IF ANYONE HAS ANYTHING THEY WANT DISCUSSING THEN CONTACT NICK 'THE TASH' MELLING OR MY GOOD SELF.



**SPECIALIST ANGLERS'
CONSERVATION GROUP**



The National Anguilla Club

The National Anguilla Club



est. 1962

Eel Angling Specialists

RECORD OFFICERS REPORT .. SPRING 1994.

NOW THAT WE ARE ALL READY TO START OUR EEL FISHING I WILL SEND YOU ALL A CATCH REPORT FOR YOU TO KEEP A RECORD OF ALL THE FISH YOU CATCH.

I HOPE THAT WHEN WE HAVE SOME LARGE EELS CAUGHT THAT YOU WILL GIVE ME A PHONE CALL, SO THAT WE CAN GET SOME COVERAGE FOR THE NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB IN THE ANGLING PAPERS LIKE THE OTHER SPECIALIST EEL GROUPS HAVE DONE.

AT THE END OF THE SEASON I WILL PHONE YOU ALL FOR YOUR REPORTS. I WILL THEN SPLIT THESE INTO THE THREE REGIONAL AREAS AND SEE IF WE HAVE A PATTERN SHOWING WHERE LARGE EELS ARE TURNING UP MORE THAN OTHERS. IE.. THE AREA AND FEEDING TIMES, AND IF THE WATER IS A LAKE, RESSIE, CANAL OR RIVER. IF YOU INCLUDE IT I CAN ALSO ANALISE WEATHER CONDITIONS AS WELL.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO COMPILE AN N.A.C. BIG EEL LIST. WHEN DONE, IT CAN BE PUBLISHED IN THE MAGAZINE FOR MEMBERS TO READ. I WANT TO DO THIS FROM WHEN THE CLUB WAS STARTED IN 1962, THIS IS GOING TO ENTAIL A LOT OF HARD WORK BUT I HOPE IT WILL BE WORTHWHILE.

I WILL HAVE TO GET INFORMATION FROM PAST MEMBERS WHO HAVE RECORDS OF EELS CAUGHT IN THE PAST. THESE BEING BRIAN CRAWFORD, NICK MELLING, DR TERRY COULSON AND PROBABLY ARTHUR SUTTON. IF ANY ONE OUT THERE HAS INFORMATION THAT WILL HELP ME THEN PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH ME.

THE EELS WILL ONLY COUNT IF THE CAPTORS OF THESE EELS WERE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB AT THE TIME OF CAPTURE.

UNTIL THE END OF THE SEASON COMES AROUND THIS IS AS MUCH AS I CAN DO WITH REGARD TO DOING MY JOB AS RECORDS OFFICER FOR THE N.A.C. I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU ALL AS THE SEASON GOES ON.

ONE POINT ABOUT COVERAGE OF CAPTURES OF EELS THROUGH THE SEASON. I WILL NOT GIVE THE NAME OF THE VENUE TO THE PAPERS, SO AS NOT TO UPSET THE MEMBERS FISHING..... THE VENUE WILL SIMPLY BE STATED AS NORTHERN STILLWATER, MIDLANDS LAKE OR SOUTHERSN RIVER. OK!!!

YOURS IN WAITING

Erica (Snake Queen)

GOOD LUCK AND I HOPE YOU TAKE PLENTY OF BIG EELS TO YOUR RODS.



The National Anguilla Club

"WHO'D BE A BRANCH SECRETARY".
(YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE).

THE WORDING BRANCH SECRETARY USUALLY REFERS TO THE OLDER CARP ORGANISATIONS, THE STATE OF THE ART TERM BEING REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE, LOCAL CONTACT, AREA CO-ORDINATOR, OR MUGGINS FOR SHORT. BASICALLY IT'S A POSITION HELD BY AN ENTHUSIASTIC CHAP, WHO MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE AN ACCOMPLISHED BIG FISH HUNTER, BUT IS SOMEONE WITH REASONABLE ORGANISATION SKILLS, WANT'S TO HELP OUT HIS CHOSEN NATIONAL SINGLE SPECIE GROUP BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY HAS A CONTAGIOUS ENTHUSIASM FOR PROMOTING ANGLING.

MANY ANGLERS I TALK TO WOULD BE QUITE WILLING TO TAKE ON SUCH A POSITION BUT DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO GO ABOUT IT AND ARE OFTEN DAUNTED BY THE JOB BEFORE THEY EVEN GET STARTED.

MANY SINGLE SPECIE ORGANISATIONS KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THEIR MEMBERS VIA THE MEDIUM OF A MAGAZINE,. THIS WILL PRESENTED TO MEMBERS BETWEEN ONCE TO FOUR TIMES OR SO A YEAR, WHILE THE LARGER GROUPS WILL ALSO PUBLISH A PERIODIC NEWSLETTER, GENERALLY GIVING MORE UP TO DATE NEWS ON HOW THE GROUP IS DOING AND A LIST OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES.

IN ADDITION TO THE WRITTEN WORD, THESE ORGANISATIONS WILL ALSO RUN NATIONAL GETTOGETHERS AND AN A.G.M., THESE CAN TAKE PLACE ON AN ANNUAL BASIS OR LIKE SOME OF THE LARGER GROUPS AS A LARGE CONFERENCE SPRING AND WINTER ALIKE.

TO STRENGTHEN THESE BODIES EVEN FURTHER USUALLY REQUIRES SOME REGIONAL OR LOCAL HELP, THIS TYPE OF INVOLVEMENT CAN TAKE PLACE IN VARYING FORMS, ANYTHING FROM TWO OR THREE MEMBERS MEETING IN A PUB OVER A DRINK OR TO BOOKING A ROOM AND INVITING A GUEST SPEAKER TO DO A TALK OR SLIDE SHOW.

HOW TO GET STARTED.

WELL THE FIRST THING TO DO WOULD BE TO CONTACT THE SECRETARY OF THE ORGANISATION YOU WISH TO PROMOTE, PEOPLE OFFERING HELP ARE GENERALLY QUITE THIN ON THE GROUND AND MOST NATIONAL BODIES WILL WELCOME YOU WITH OPEN ARMS.

WHAT NEXT.

THE NEXT STEP WOULD BE TO LOOK THROUGH THE AREA'S MEMBERSHIP LIST AND TRY TO FIND A CENTRAL AREA WITH A PUB OR CLUB WHO HAS A SPARE ROOM.

MOST LANDLORDS ARE GLAD OF THE EXTRA BUSINESS, PARTICULARLY IF IT'S ON A NORMALLY QUITE NIGHT MID WEEK, IN WHICH CASE YOU WILL PROBABLY GET THE ROOM FREE, IF NOT THEN SHOP AROUND AS YOU CAN DO THIS TYPE OF THING RELATIVELY CHEAPLY. CHECK THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THE ROOM WILL HOLD, AMOUNT OF SEATS AVAILABLE, LIGHTING ARRANGEMENTS AND AVAILABILITY OF POWER POINTS, ALSO CHECK IF A P.A. SYSTEM IS AVAILABLE WHICH WILL BE USEFULL IF YOU INVISAGE A LARGE TURN OUT, ALSO TRY TO KEEP THE SPEAKERS AREA AWAY FROM THE BAR, IDEALLY IN A SEPERATE ROOM.

JUST IN CASE THE TURN OUT PROVES TO BE OF A RIOTOUS NATURES IT'S BEST TO ADD A FEW RATHER LARGE MEAN LOOKING GORILLA'S, AND PLACE THEM ON THE DOOR (NO OFFENCE ANDY).

TALKS AND SLIDE SHOWS.

QUITE A NUMBER OF ANGLING CELEBRITIES WILL USUALLY BE PREPARED TO PUT ON A SLIDE SHOW TO HELP PROMOTE A LOCAL REGIONAL BRANCH, CONTACTS CAN BE MADE VIA MOST OF THE LARGER GROUPS, N.A.S.A. AND THE CARP SOCIETY ARE ALWAYS WORTH CONTACTING, IN ADDITION TO THE ANGLING FATHERNITY, TO BE DIFFERENT YOU COULD CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH OR UNIVERSITY TO SEE IF THEY COULD ADVISE YOU ON SOMEONE TO SPEAK ON WATER PLANTS OR AQUATIC LIFE, MOST SPEAKERS WILL ONLY ASK FOR THEIR PETROL MONEY AND IF YOU RUN THE MEETING WITH A CHARITY DONATION AT THE END OF THE NIGHT, THEN SOME OF THE SPEAKERS WILL GIVE THEIR SEVICES FREE, (THANKS JULES).

OTHER THINGS TO DO. (DON'T PANIC MR MANNERING).

IF GIVING A SLIDE SHOW, ALWAYS TAKE A COUPLE OF EXTENTION LEADS AND A SPARE PROJECTOR AND SCREEN, CHECK HOW DARK THE ROOM WILL GO AND ORGANISE A RAFFLE. MOST LOCAL TACKLE SHOPS AND BAIT COMPANIES WILL SUPPLY YOU WITH A FREE RAFFLE PRIZE OR ADDITIONALLY YOU COULD INVITE THEM TO PUT A STALL OR DISPLAY ON.

CHARGES.

ONE OR TWO POUND ON THE DOOR USUALLY COVERS MOST COSTS YOU ARE LIKELY TO OCCURE INCLUDING POSTAGE.

ADVERTISING.

THE BETTER YOU ADVERTISE THE MEETING THE MORE SUCCESSFUL IT'S LIKELY TO BE, CONTACT ALL LOCAL MEMBERS BY MAILSHOT, CHECK THE LOCAL PAPERS FOR ANGLING COLUMNS, ANY FREE PAPERS IN YOU AREA ARE USUALLY WILLING TO GIVE YOU SPACE. CONTACT LOCAL RADIO, HAVE A DISPLAY POSTER MADE UP AND POST IT IN TACKLE SHOPS E.T.C. NOTICE BOARDS, LIBRARYS ESPACIALLY IF YOU ARE RUNNING IT FOR A LOCAL CHARITY, CONTACT THE ANGLING WEEKLIES AND MONTHLIES.

ON THE NIGHT.

MOST GETTOGETHERS ARE VERY SUCCESSFUL LETS FACE IT, A BUNCH OF ANGLERS TALKING FISH IN A PUB HAS GOT TO BE A WINNER, BUT AS THE ORGANISER YOU MAY HAVE TO DO A BIT OF RUNNING AROUND, IT'S UNLIKELY THAT YOU WILL SEE ALL OF THE SLIDE SHOW BUT IT WILL GIVE YOU SOME SATISFACTION IF ALL GOES WELL, CARRY A BOTTLE OF VALIUM JUST IN CASE.

AFTER THE EVENT.

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE TAKEN LOT'S OF PHOTOGRAPH'S AND DRAUGHT UP A SHORT, BUT TO THE POINT PRESS RELEASE, THANKING EVERYONE WHO HAS HELPED OUT AND ALSO THOSE WHO GAVE PRIZES E.T.C., EVEN THANK THOSE WHO LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE HELPING BUT DID SOD ALL, AT LEAST IT GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT IT WAS WELL ORGANISED EVEN IF IT WASN'T.

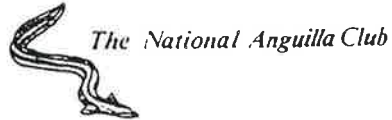


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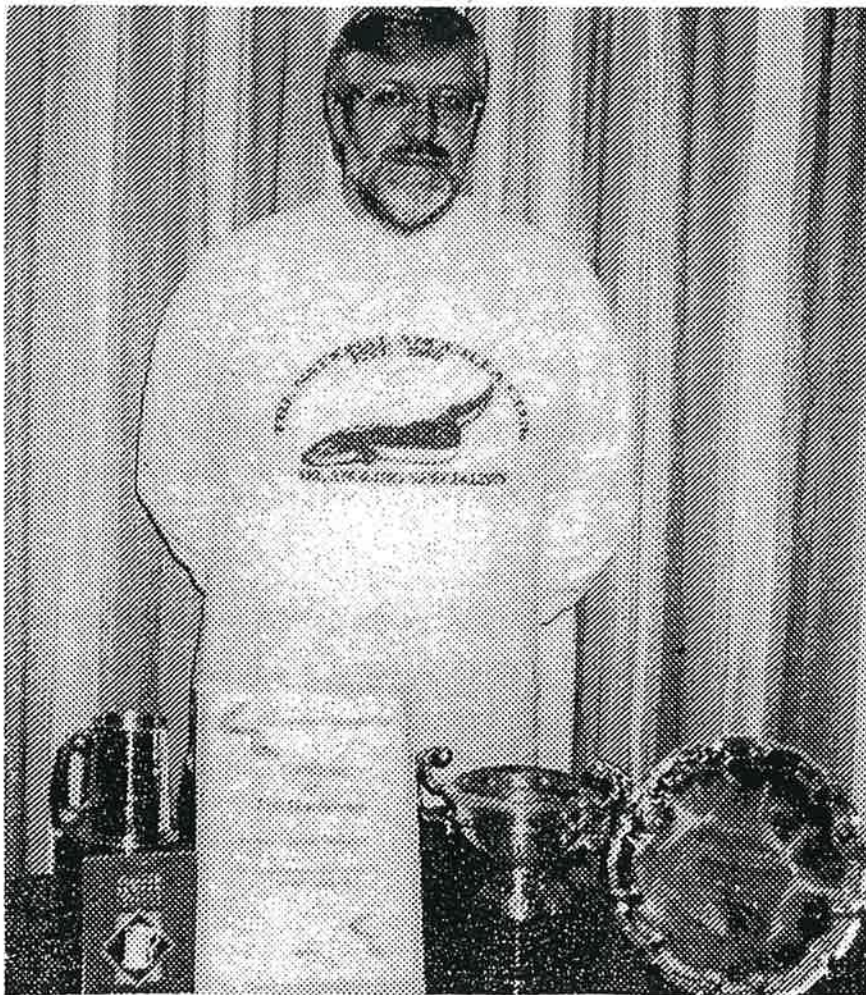
SHOULD YOU BE INCREDIBLY UNLUCKY IN THAT THE SPEAKER FAILS TO TURN UP, THE AUDIANCE FAILS TO TURN UP, THE SPARE PROJECTOR BLOWS UP (JUST AFTER THE MAIN ONE), OR THE ROOM IS RAIDED BY BOTH A SOUTH AMERICAN LEFT WING URBAN GORILLA TERRORIST GROUP OR THE LOCAL DRUG AND VICE SQUAD, THEN IT'S ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA TO PUT SOMEONE ELSE'S NAME ON THE ORGANISING LEAFLETS, THEN AGAIN THERE'S ALWAYS THAT BRIDGE OVER THE CANAL. BUT MOST OF ALL ENTHUSIASTIC, CONSIENCIIOUS AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST ASK YOURSELF ONE SIMPLE QUESTION "DO I FEEL LUCKY?".

HANG ON IN THERE!

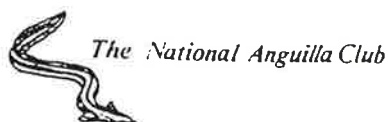
THE MONK.



The National Anguilla Club



CLUB PRESIDENT BRIAN CRAWFORD DISPLAYING THE TROPHIES, SHIELDS AND CERTIFICATE OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP WHICH HE RECIEVED AT THE S.G.M.





THE N.A.S.A. JUNIOR CONFERENCE.

ON WEDNESDAY, 29th DECEMBER 1993, ERICA, AMANDA, KARL AND MYSELF JOINED KEVIN HUISSH AT THE N.A.S.A. JUNIOR CONFERENCE HELD AT 'THE FISHERMANS REST' SOCIAL CLUB, ON THE BANKS OF HAMM POOL, IN SOUTH CERNEY, OXFORDSHIRE. WE WERE THERE TO REPRESENT THE NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB AND N.A.S.A.

WE ARRIVED AT 12.10 pm AFTER AN HORRENDOUS JOURNEY DOWN IN DRIVING RAIN AND GALE FORCE WINDS. KEVIN HAD ALREADY GOT BOTH THE STANDS UP AND ALL THE INFORMATION SPREAD OUT OVER THE TABLES.

ALSO AT THE GATHERING WAS THE CATFISH STUDY GROUP, THE P.A.C. AND A TACKLE DISPLAY. THERE WERE TALKS ON CARP FISHING, CATFISHING, BARBEL FISHING AND PIKE FISHING. THERE WERE TWO GROUPS SHOWING HOW TO TIE CARP RIGS AND MAKE PIKE TRACES. THERE WAS ALSO A PRACTICE SESSION ON HAMM POOL FOR PIKE HANDLING AND RIGS ECT. UNFORTUNATLY, THERE WAS ONLY ONE PIKE CAUGHT BUT THOSE WHO WERE THERE GOT A HALF REASONABLE ACCOUNT ON HANDLING AND UNHOOKING. (IT WAS ONLY A JACK PIKE AND YOU CANNOT REALLY SHOW WHATS WHAT WITH SOMETHING SO SMALL.)

ALSO AT THE CONFERENCE WAS PHIL SMITH, ANOTHER N.A.C. MEMBER, SO THE CLUB WAS WELL REPRESENTED WITH SIX MEMBERS PRESENT. (FOUR SENIORS AND TWO JUNIORS.)

OUR STAND CREATED A LOT OF ATTENTION WITH THE YOUNGSTERS PRESENT AND ALSO SOME OF THE DADS WHO WERE IN ATTENDANCE.

AT THE END OF THE DAY THERE WAS A RAFFLE AND THIS WAS WELL RECEIVED DUE TO THE MANY, MANY PRIZES THAT WERE GIVEN BY TACKLE FIRMS. WE DONATED A FREE JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE N.A.C. FOR THE COMING YEAR. THIS WAS EXCITEDLY RECEIVED BY THE JUNIOR INVOLVED, (THIS JUNIOR TURNED OUT TO BE SEVENTEEN, SO WE NOW HAVE ONE MORE SENIOR IN OUR RANKS. HOWEVER, THIS CANNOT BE A BAD THING FOR THE N.A.C.)

N.A.S.A ALSO GAVE A JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE RAFFLE AND GAVE AWAY THE ODD SPECIALIST ANGLER MAGAZINE AND SOME STICKERS.

A GOOD DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON HOW TO MAKE THE NEXT CONFERENCE BETTER. SEEING AS THERE WAS NO FOOD AVAILABLE ON THE DAY THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST THING I WOULD HAVE SORTED OUT. (I TOLD ERICA NOT TO DO ANY SARNIES TO TAKE WITH US COS THERE WOULD BE FOOD THERE. .OOPS!!)

4.30 pm CAME... AND WITH IT A FAST GETAWAY TO THE NEAREST 'LITTLE CHEF' TO SUSTAIN OUR HUNGER. EVERYONE HAVING A NORMAL MEAL, EXCEPT KEVIN, WHO HAD THE 'OYLIMPIC FEAST'..AND TWO POTS OF TEA.....ENOUGH SAID. YET AGAIN THE N.A.C. TACKLE BOARD WAS PRESENT AT AN ANGLING CONFERENCE AND 'ANGUILLA ANGUILLA' GOT A SOUND HEARING.

THANKS ARE IN ORDER TO KEVIN FOR GETTING THE STANDS TO THE VENUE AND MANNING IT, ALSO THANKS TO PHIL FOR BEING THERE ON BEHALF OF N.A.S.A. AND THE N.A.C.

SPECIAL THANKS GO TO Mr JOHN HOBBS FOR ORGANISING THE WHOLE THING.

YOURS,.....'STARVED TO THE POINT OF EXHAUSTION'

Stew

"Dances with eels"



The National Anguilla Club



JUNIOR OFFICERS REPORT...SPRING 1994.

DATE..18/3/94.

JUNIOR MEMBERS..JARED HUIISH.
ANDREW ROSE.
AMANDA TOMLINSON.
KARL RICHARDSON.

WELCOME TO ALL THOSE ABOVE. AT THIS MOMENT IN TIME THESE ARE THE ONLY JUNIORS THAT I KNOW OF, AND IT'S STARTING TO LOOK LIKE 'THE KIDS OFF THE OLD BLOCKS'.

WHY,I WONDER, IS IT THAT WE DON'T HAVE OTHER JUNIORS FROM OUTSIDE SO TO SPEAK?. THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE CLUB..OR ME IF YOU LIKE..TO TRY AND GET THE WEEKLY ANGLING PAPERS TO PROMOTE THE JUNIOR SECTION OF THE NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB.

THERE MAY BE ONE MORE SOLUTION TO OUR APPARENT PROBLEM... (THAT BEING YOUNGSTERS OUT THERE IN GENERAL NOT KNOWING ABOUT THE CLUB.)...MAYBE THE JUNIORS WE HAVE COULD SEE IF THEIR ANGLING MATES ARE INTERESTED IN FISHING FOR EELS. IF THIS IS THE CASE, BUT THEY ARE UNSURE ABOUT HANDLING EELS, THEN MAYBE WE COULD HOLD A SORT OF TEACH/IN TO ACCERTAIN WHETHER EEL FISHING IS FOR THEM OR NOT. IF IT'S THE FORMER, THEN THEY CAN PAY THEIR DUES AND JOIN THE CLUB.

GIVEN THE PROBLEMS OF HOLDING A FISH/IN AND THEN HAVING TO CATCH AN EEL WITH WHICH TO 'PLAY' WITH IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE HANDLING ECT.. IT MAY PAY TO HAVE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF INTERESTED YOUNGSTERS AND USE AN EEL OR EELS THAT HAVE BEEN KEPT FOR SUCH A PURPOSE. THIS MEANS THAT IF ANY OF THE JUNIORS HAVE MATES WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED THEY NEED TO CONTACT ME TO ORGANISE SUCH AN EVENT.

AS YOU WILL, SEE WE HAVE OUR FIRST FEMALE JUNIOR MEMBER, IN AMANDA. SHE HAS NO FEAR OF EELS AT ALL, HAVING HELD EVERY EEL WHICH ERICA AND I CAUGHT LAST SEASON WITHOUT ENCOURAGEMENT FROM US, SORT OF JUST STEPPING IN AND TAKING OVER AND GETTING A RIGHT 'MONK ON' WHEN BEING TOLD TO GET OUT OF THE WAY OF THE PICTURE. WHETHER AMANDA HAS THE POWER TO LAND A DECENT EEL REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BUT IF ENTHUSIASM IS ANYTHING TO GO BY THEN SHE WILL BE HALF WAY OK. (ANYWAY IT GIVES ME THE CHANCE TO FISH MORE, WITH KARL AND AMANDA BUGGING ME TO TAKE THEM. ALMOST A FISH/IN IN IT'S SELF.)

I INTEND TO HOLD JUNIOR FISH/INS ON THE RIVER TRENT AND THE CANALS AROUND MY HOME THIS YEAR, ANDREW ONLY BEING HALF AN HOUR AWAY BY CAR HELPS WITH THIS. WHEN I TRAVEL DOWN TO WALES TO FISH BARRY RES WITH OUR 'CHAIRMAN', I WILL THEN GET JARED INVOLVED WITH THE OTHER TWO THAT WAY. ANYONE WHO KNOWS JARED REALISES THAT TRAVELLING IS NOT HIS STRONG POINT AND KEVIN DOES NOT WANT HIS ACCESS TO 'LITTLE CHEFS' BEING BLOCKED, DUE TO THE STRONG SMELL OF 'BARFF'. (IT'S A PROBLEM WE'LL GET AROUND.)

WELL I CANNOT THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE TO PUT DOWN HERE ON BEHALF OF THE JUNIORS, I HAVE AT LEAST ONE DRAWING FROM AMANDA FOR THE NEXT MAGAZINE



BUT...I WOULD LIKE SOME PHOTO'S OR ARTICLES OR DRAWINGS FROM THE REST OF YOU LOT OUT THERE PLEASE.

BELOW IS A PHOTOGRAPH OF AMANDA SHOWING HER MUM HOW TO POSE WITH A VERY GOOD EEL... (SORT OF ERICA CATCHES THE EEL..31b 15oz.. AND AMANDA SAY'S "THIS IS HOW TO SHOW IT OFF, OK MUM"!!!

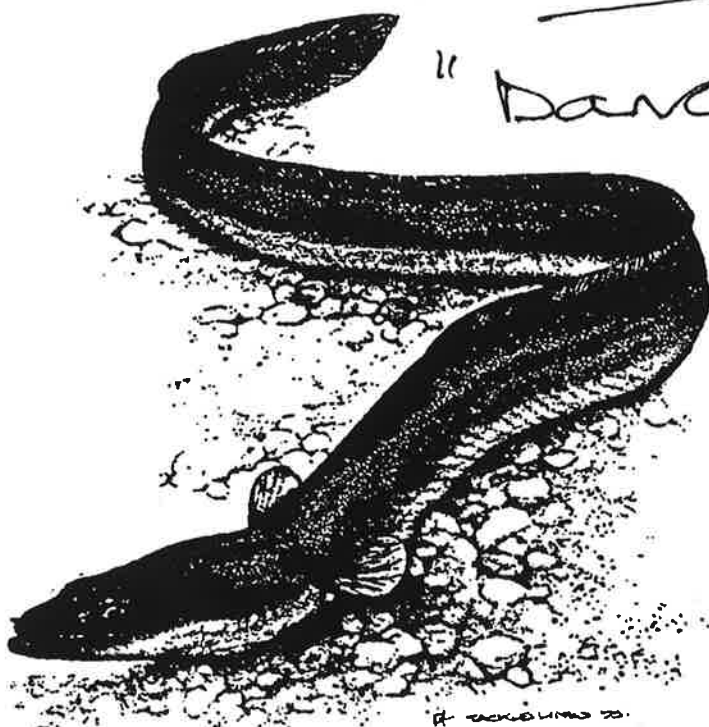


THAT'S ALL FOR NOW, IF YOU NEED ME FOR ANYTHING, PROBLEMS ECT... PHONE ME UP OR WRITE, OK.!

YOURS

Stewie

"Dances with eels"



The National Anguilla Club

A COMPARISON BETWEEN SECTION, DEAD AND LIVEBAITS.

By; Terry Jefferson.

Livebaiting for eels is a subject which has come in for a fair amount of discussion in the last year or two. I think that possibly the main reason for this has been the reported captures of eels of a good average size on livebaits intended for pike. Every season, good eels turn up to pike anglers, accidentally on livebaits..... or are they accidents? I think not. It happens too often for it to be accidental.

However, is it a method the eel angler could use to improve his results?

I decided to give the method a try last season to see for myself how livebait would compare against dead and more especially, section baits.

Although one season's results are not enough to reach any firm conclusions, I will try to give a practical appraisal of the method of livebaiting compared with the other more established methods.

With section baits, the average size of section used by most anglers seems to be between one and two inches, be they head, tail or middle sections. The hook is normally well hidden with just the bend and point exposed.

One of the main ideas behind section baits is to hit the eels soon after picking up the bait, if not immediately, whether the reason be to make sure the eel cannot reach snags or weed before swallowing the bait, or to simply improve the chances of lip hooking the eel instead of the more common trace disappearing down the throat trick.

With the size of the section baits, you do stand a far better chance of lip hooking the eels. There will obviously be a fair proportion of misses as there are with any method but if the eel is of a reasonable size then the chances of hooking such a fish with a quick strike are greatly improved because the eel is perfectly capable of engulfing the bait as soon as it picks it up.

Obviously there are areas where section baits could be taken by much smaller eels, instance the tadpole eels of the Norfolk Broads and Lincs where five or six inches dead-baits seem to present few problems to all but the eels under about $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., but the chance of lip hooking the eels is still greatly improved.

When using whole deadbaits, the main problem which faces the eel angler is one which has always been with us, and I don't think we will find a sure fire solution, and that is when to strike in order to stand a chance of hooking the eel somewhere near the front of the mouth where the hooks can be easily removed.

Obviously, noone wants to risk loosing what could be a big eel, as there is no way of knowing how big an eel is when it picks up the bait, and as a result of that, I think we all tend to delay the strike a little bit longer in order to make sure of hooking the eel and invariably it turns out to be deep hooked.

It's fairly normal practice when fishing with whole deadbaits to wait until the traditional second run has started before hitting the fish.

The eel normally picks up the bait across the flanks, certainly in my experience, as has been shown by the marks on dropped baits, or baits that have just been taken and the strike failed to make contact. The eel then moves off with the bait, maybe inches, or sometimes many yards, (like the Bala eels,), eventually stopping to turn the bait before swallowing it and then moving off again.

I havn't had the courage to try it yet, (has anyone else?), But it would seem that the best chance of lip hooking the eels would be to hit them shortly after the first run has stopped, say 5-8 secs. Obviously, there is still a chance of missing the eel, or it might have just dropped the bait, in which case your not likely to catch it anyway, but it just might be a way of getting some sort of consistency into lip hooking the eels, instead of the all too regular deep hooking.

The only drawback I can forsee is that with a stationary eel it is necessary to wind right down to the fish before hitting it, with the risk that the eel will feel the build up of tension in the line and eject the bait before the strike can be made, whereas with a running eel, tightening up to the fish is so much easier as the eel does half the work for you, plus the fact that the eel may have already swallowed the bait making ejection almost impossible.

When fishing with livebaits, similar problems arise as when fishing deadbaits, for example, when to strike.

Plus one other which tends to put me off the method, and that is the fact that the..

(cont'd)

.....hook is almost entirely outside the bait, together with the trace, whether the bait be hooked through the lips or the tail.

With a lip-hooked bait, the obvious problem is that when the eel turns the bait to swallow, it gets a mouthful of metal before it tastes anything it expects to. To my mind, not a very desirable situation. I have tried this using smallish hooks down to size four and six which might help to alleviate the problem mentioned above, but then the problem arises as to whether a hook of that size would find a decent hook-hold, particularly as when the strike is made, the hook may remain pointing in the wrong direction, that is to say down the throat, not being able to swivel round between the bait and the side of the eels throat.

Perhaps the best, easiest and most effective way of fishing livebaits would be to tail hook the bait. That way the hook is almost certain to be pointing in the right direction when the strike is made, plus the fact that if the eel has already started to swallow the bait, the chances are that the hook will still be somewhere near the front of the eels mouth.

In conclusion, I would say that all of the aforementioned methods have their good and bad points which I have by no means covered fully, and I don't think it is possible to say that any one method is better than the others.

It's all too easy to fall into the groove of finding some success with a particular method, and then to use it to the almost total exclusion of all others.

Different waters and varying conditions call for a continually changing and varied approach, and it is up to us all to see that every possible method is given a chance.

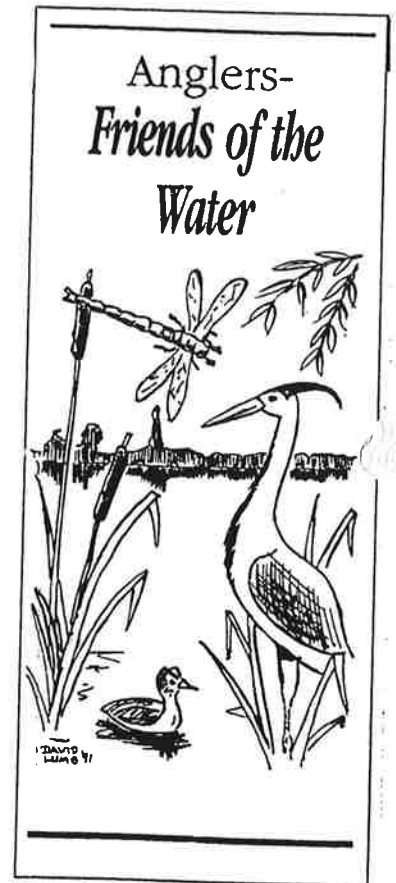
We should all endeavour to prove that eel fishing is not the stereotyped pastime it is often reckoned to be, and can so easily become.....do you not agree?



The National Anguilla Club



NICK ROSE LENDING A HELPING HAND WITH A GOOD FISH AT A N.A.S.A JUNIOR FISH IN.



DEEPLY HOOKED EELS.....LIVE OR DIE.

PART ONE. (THE SECOND PART WILL FOLLOW NEXT MAGAZINE DUE TO THE LENGTH OF THIS ARTICLE.)

THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN THE SCOURGE OF EEL ANGLING FOR MANY, MANY YEARS. I MAKE NO QUALIFIED JUDGEMENT ON THE PROBLEMS OF EELS THAT HAVE BEEN DEEPLY HOOKED, FAR BETTER ANGLERS THAN MYSELF HAVE DEBATED THIS SUBJECT IN THE PAST, AND, NO DOUBT, WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE OF EEL ANGLING AND CONSERVATION.

THESE RAMBLINGS ARE MY OWN OBSERVATIONS ON THE MATTER. THEY ARE BOUND TO BE DISAGREED WITH BY OTHER ANGLERS, AND I HOPE THAT CONSTRUCTIVE DEBATE CAN RESULT FROM THIS ARTICLE AND THEN WE CAN ALL TAKE A STEP NEARER TO FINDING OUT WHAT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS FOR ANGUILLA ANGUILLA.

WHY THIS SUBJECT...???

1. THIS PAST SEASON HAS PRODUCED SOME INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS.
2. I THINK THAT CONSERVATION MINDED EEL ANGLERS SHOULD BE TRYING TO MAKE SURE THAT THE EELS THEY CATCH ARE RETURNED BACK TO THE WATER WITH THE BEST CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL.
3. I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A SUBJECT THAT MAY MOVE MEMBERS TO CONSTRUCTIVLY DEBATE IN THE CLUB MAGAZINE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF UNDERSTANDING AND LEARNING.

IN SEASONS PAST, I HAVE FISHED FOR EELS IN THE HOPE OF CATCHING A GOOD FISH, I HAVE THEN MOVED ON TO FISH FOR OTHER SPECIES. THIS HAS ALWAYS DEPENDED ON EITHER, WHEN A GOOD EEL HAS BEEN TAKEN, OR WHEN THE BLANKING HAS GOT TOO MUCH. (I AIN'T GOT THE PERSEVERENCE OF NICK.)

SO I DECIDED TO GO FOR IT LAST SEASON. THE DECISION TO FISH IN THE CLOSE SEASON IN LINCOLNSHIRE WAS ONE OF MY BETTER ONES AND PRODUCED FOR ME, TWO BIG EELS AT 4.11 AND 4.10. (A PERSONAL BEST TO BOOT.) HOWEVER, AFTER THOSE CAPTURES I HAD WHAT CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS A POOR CATCH RETURN WITH REGARD TO NUMBERS AND SIZE OF FISH. EIGHT MORE EELS...THREE 2LB'ERS AND FIVE 1LB'ERS.****

NOW THE BIG DEBATING POINT IS THIS... IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT THE REASON I HAVE HAD SO FEW EELS THIS SEASON IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT I FISH LIKE A PLONKER, (IE. WITH RIGS THAT HAVE MEGA RESISTANCE). OTHER ANGLERS THAT HAVE BEEN EXPERIMENTING WITH THESE RIGS HAVE ALSO HAD BAD RESULTS, RUN WISE. THIS IS THE POINT IN QUESTION REALLY....RUN RATIO.

THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT ANY EEL PICKING UP A WORM BAIT WHICH IS SET UP ON A HELICOPTER RIG WILL BE HOOKED IN THE LIP, SO LONG AS THE RIG IS SET UP CORRECTLY. THIS ALSO GOES FOR THE RIGHT SIZED DEADBAIT ON THE LARGE PERCENTAGE OF WATERS. (KEVINS WELSH WATER BEING AN EXCEPTION, TO SAY THE LEAST.) I ONLY USE SELF/HOOKING RIGS BECAUSE I WANT LESS DEEPHOOKED EELS TO DEAL WITH ON MY SESSIONS. DOES THIS CAUSE ME LESS TAKES???

THERE IS ROOM FOR DEBATE, AND ONE WITH WHICH I AGREE, THAT A DEADBAIT IS INSPECTED SLIGHTLY DIFFERENTLY IN CONTRAST TO WORMS. IT IS MY OPINION THAT WORMS ARE PUT AWAY VERY QUICKLY INDEED BY FEEDING EELS. NO MESSING, JUST STRAIGHT GOB JOBS. DEADBAITS ARE ALSO PUT AWAY QUITE QUICKLY IF THE EEL IS EQUIPTED WITH THE CORRECT MOUTH AND THE SIZE OF

THE DEADBAIT IS NOT TOO BIG. (2"-4"). OBVIOUSLY THERE ARE EELS AROUND THAT CAN SORT OUT LARGE DEADBAITS JUST AS EFFECTIVLY AS SMALL DEADBAITS, THESE ARE, HOWEVER, FEW AND FAR BETWEEN COMPARED TO THE NORMAL EEL FEEDING ABILITY. (SOMEONE WILL JUST HAVE TO COMMENT THERE, WON'T THEY?)

I HAVE TO ADMIT TO BEING SWAYED, WHILST USEING DEADS LAST SEASON, TOWARDS USEING RUNNING LEGER RIGS. THE REASON BEING THAT WHEN I FISHED DEADS ON HELICOPTER RIGS, RUNS WERE HARD TO COME BY AND DISCUSSION MOVED ME TO USEING RUNNING RIGS. MY CONFIDENCE WAS QUESTIONED AND I COPPED OUT... SO I DECIDED TO SEE IF IT WAS THE RIG OR JUST LACK OF FEEDING EELS.

IF THE RUNS HAD THEN STARTED TO COME FAST AND FURIOUS AND I HAD BEEN DEEPHOOKING THE EELS ON THESE RIGS, WOULD I HAVE CONTINUED USEING THE SAID RIGS, LETTING THE EEL GET THE BAIT WELL DOWN SO THAT THE RESULT WAS AN EEL ON THE BANK REGARDLESS OF WHERE THE HOOK MIGHT BE.? THE ANSWER IS MOST DEFINATELY, NO!!. I WOULD HAVE GONE BACK TO THE HELICOPTER RIG AND SEEN WHAT OCCURRED AND EXPERIMENTED WITH BAIT SIZE.

THE TRUTH IS THAT I WOULD RATHER MISS AN EEL RUN THAN RISK HOOKING AN EEL IN THE THROAT OR GUT. (SO I AIM'T NEVER GONNA CATCH LOTS AND LOTS OF EELS EACH SEASON AM I .!?). ANYHOW, THE RUNS NEVER BECAME FAST AND FURIOUS SO THE PROBLEM WAS NO FEEDING EELS IN THE AREA WHERE I CHOSE TO FISH.!!??.., NOT THE RIG AS YET, ANYHOW.!? (COMMENT HERE PLEASE.)

I FIND FISHING DEADS ON RUNNING RIGS VERY STRESSFULL, DUE TO MY CONVICTIONS ON WHERE THE HOOK SHOULD BE. I TEND TO HIT DEADBAIT RUNS VERY QUICKLY, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE TAKE IS A RIGHT RIP ROARING, NIGEL MANSSELL, TYPE ONE. THE SLOWER TYPE OF TAKE I CAN DEAL WITH BETTER, FEELING THE LINE AND WORKING OUT THE BEST TIME TO STRIKE IN MY OPINION. (LIKE PIKE AND ZANDERING)

AM I THE ONLY ONE LIKE THIS.!!???????

OF ONE THING I'M ABSOLUTLY POSITIVE, IF EVERY EEL BAIT WAS PRESENTED ON THE STANDARD RUNNING RIG, THE PERCENTAGE OF EELS DEEPLY HOOKED WOULD BE VERY HIGH INDEED, DUE TO THE AMOUNT OF EELS CAUGHT USEING 'SOFT BAITS' LIKE WORMS AND MAGGOTS. THESE ARE THE BAITS THAT HAVE THE HIGHEST DEEP HOOKING RATIO OF THEM ALL. (DEADBAITS DO HAVE A DEEP HOOKING RATIO, BUT ALSO HAVE A BIGGER NON HOOKING RATIO THAN ANY OTHER BAIT.)

SO YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR DEEP HOOKING OF EELS TOWARDS A MIMIMUM TARGET, IF YOU CHANGE THE WAY YOU PRESENT BAITS LIKE WORMS, MAGGOTS, SLUGS, PRAWNS, COCKLES ECT.. IT'S TRUE THAT YOU CAN HAVE YOUR BAIT WHITTLED AWAY BY SMALL FISH OF OTHER SPECIES WITH NO INDICATION OTHER THAN AN ODD BLEEP OF THE OPTONIC OR JUMP OF THE BOBBIN. WHAT YOU MUST REMEMBER IS THIS.. WHEN AN EEL DOES COME ALONG, AND TAKE YOUR BAIT, IT WILL HOOK ITSELF, 9/10: IT'S MY BELIEF THAT WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO CATCH FISH AT ANY COST, JUST FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC SATISFACTION AND CATCH REPORT EGO. EELS BY NATURE REQUIRE ENDURING BLANK SESSIONS, BEING THE FISH THEY ARE, SECRETIVE AND MYSTERIOUS.

PERHAPS I AM DIFFERENT TO MOST OTHER EEL ANGLERS IN RESPECT OF HOOK POSITION AFTER THE EEL HAS TAKEN THE BAIT. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT MANY OF THE EEL ANGLERS I HAVE WATCHED 'IN ACTION' DON'T WORRY ABOUT THIS ASPECT OF THEIR EEL FISHING, IT SEEMS THAT THE CAPTURE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE WELL BEING OF THE EEL. THIS IS, TO MY MIND, TOTALLY IRRESPONSIBLE.

I CAN UNDERSTAND THE DESIRE TO CATCH BIG EELS AND THE PHOTOGRAPHS CAN LOOK REALLY GOOD (UNLESS YOUR KEVIN HUIH.) HOWEVER, WE ALL KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO CATCH THESE EELS, (BIG OR LITTLE). SO WHY DO WE THEN PLACE THE LIFE OF THE VERY CREATURE WE HOLD SO HIGH AT MORE RISK THAN IS

NECESSARY. THE USE OF ANY 'SOFT BAIT' SHOULD BE ON RIGS THAT GIVE BETTER PROTECTION FOR THE EEL, BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER CAPTURE. THIS IS CALLED CONSERVATION. IT ALSO MEANS THAT WE MAY HAVE TO MISS A FEW TAKES FOR THE SAKE OF THE EEL.

THIS IS ALL WELL AND GOOD WITH THE USE OF BAITS THAT I TERM 'SOFT', BUT WHAT OF DEADBAITS AND LIVEBAITS.

THE SIMPLE ANSWER IS "I DON'T KNOW". (I AM HOPEING THAT SOME OF YOU OUT THERE WILL BE ABLE TO HELP WITH THIS PROBLEM). BUT PERSONALLY, I TRY USEING SMALL BAITS, EITHER WHOLE OR IN HALF SECTIONS, ON SELF HOOKING RIGS. THIS IS A VERY HARD THING TO DO IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN THE RIGS OR WONDER IF THEY PREVENT RUNS OCCURRING. HOWEVER, I DID'NT CATCH EELS AFTER CHANGEING STYLES, I DID'NT EVEN INCREASE MY RUN RATE. OBVIOUSLY I WAS PLACING MY BAITS IN AREAS THAT WERE DEVID OF EELS..????..THIS WENT FOR THE WORM RODS AS WELL, BUT, IN MY DESIRE TO CATCH MORE BIG EELS, AFTER MY GREAT START TO THE SEASON, I DID'NT SEE THE WOOD FOR THE TREES.)

CONFIDENCE IS THE KEY FACTOR IN USEING THESE SELF HOOKING RIGS... (IF YOU ARE NOT GETTING THE RUNS, THEN IT'S MORE THAN LIKELY BECAUSE THE AREA YOU ARE FISHING HAS NO EELS OR THE EELS ARE NOT FEEDING ON THE BAITS YOU ARE USEING.)

WHEN WE FISH DEADBAITS, WE KNOW IF THE BAIT IS TAKEN BECAUSE WE GET SOME SORT OF INDICATION, IF WE ARE USEING ADEQUATE SET UPS. (IE. NOT FREE/LINING AT SEVENTY YARDS.) SO WE SHOULD TRY FISHING DEADBAITS ON SELF/HOOKING RIGS WITH CONFIDENCE AND EXPERIMENT ACCORDINGLY WITH THE HOOK POSITION AND BAIT SIZE. (AT LEAST ON ONE ROD UNTIL YOU'VE DRAWN YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS ON IT'S MERITS. I MEAN, MOST OF US TRY GETTING AWAY WITH THREE RODS, SOME USE FOUR. SO WHAT IS THE PROBLEM OF TRYING SOMETHING DIFFERENT WITH ONE OF THEM EH!.)

SO IT'S MY OPINION THAT WE SHOULD ALL TRY TO USE HOOKING ARRANGEMENTS THAT ARE EEL FRIENDLY IN OUR QUEST FOR THE EEL OF OUR DREAMS. BUT EVEN USEING BETTER HOOKING ARRANGEMENTS CAN RESULT IN THE ODD (VERY ODD) EEL THAT HAS BEEN A GUTSY SO AND SO, AND SCOFFED OUR BAIT ON THE SPOT, AND BECOME DEEPHOOKED. NOW SOME ANGLERS IN THE PAST HAVE STATED THAT A DEEPLY HOOKED EEL IS NIGH ON A GONNA, SOME STILL SAY IT. SO, TO QUOTE THE ROCK GROUP QUEEN.. "ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST".

BUT SURELY THERE IS DEEPHOOKED AND DEEPHOOKED.

IT'S BEEN MY EXPERIENCE OVER THE LAST TWO SEASONS THAT EELS ARE MORE HARDY THAN WE GIVE THEM CREDIT FOR, IF, AND I STRESS IF, THE ANGLER TAKES EXTREME CARE ONCE THE EEL IS LANDED. IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS TO ANYONE WHO KNOWS THE LAYOUT OF THE EELS VITAL ORGANS, THAT AN EEL HOOKED IN THE THROAT IS IN MORE IMMEDIATE DANGER THAN AN EEL THAT IS HOOKED WELL DOWN IN THE GUT AREA. AN EEL THAT HAS THE HOOK IN THE THROAT AREA USUALLY PUMPS BLOOD DUE TO THE DAMAGE THE HOOK MAKES WITH THE VITAL ORGANS DURING THE FIGHT,...OR MORE OFTEN WHEN THE ANGLER TRIES TO REMOVE THE HOOK.

THERE IS ONE RULE AND ONE RULE ONLY... IF YOU CANNOT SEE THE HOOK AT ALL, DON'T PULL AND PROD AROUND TRYING TO GET YOUR HOOK OUT. EITHER UNCLIP THE TRACE AND SACK THE EEL UNTIL DAYLIGHT HOURS, WHEN YOU CAN SEE WHAT YOU ARE DOING PROPERLY OR CUT THE TRACE AT THE MOUTH AND RELEASE THE EEL STRAIGHT AWAY WITHOUT PUTTING THE EEL THROUGH FORCE AND STRESS IT DOES NOT NEED. I PERSONALLY SACK MY FISH ANYWAY UNTIL THE SESSION IS OVER, BEING OF THE SCHOOL OF THOUGHT THAT EELS CAN COMMUNICATE SOMEHOW

WHEN RELEASED AND KILL A SWIM DEAD. (ANOTHER GOOD DEBATING POINT FOR THE MAGAZINE.)

AT THIS JUNCTURE YOU MAY WELL THINK THAT LEAVING THE STRIKE LONGER IS BETTER THAN EXPERIMENTING WITH LIP/HOOKING RIGS.

BUT IT IS WORTH REMEMBERING THAT THE NATURE OF THE EELS FIGHT DOES'NT HELP MATTERS. THE HOOK CAN BE DEEPER ON THE INITIAL STRIKE, BUT BE PULLED FURTHER TOWARD THE THROAT AREA WITH THE CONTINUAL BACKING OFF AND THE PRESSURE WE APPLY IN PULLING THE OTHER WAY, SOMETHING THAT DOES'NT OCCURR OFTEN WITH NORMAL COARSE FISH. MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, WE CAN STEER OTHER COARSE FISH SIDE WAYS AND ALLOW THEM TO BACK OFF FOR A SHORT DISTANCE, THUS ELIMINATING THE FORCE WE APPLY TO EELS AND THE DAMAGE THIS FORCE CAN DO. SO, WITH THIS IN MIND, I DON'T THINK THAT DELAYING THE STRIKE LONGER IS THE ANSWER TO THE EELS SURVIVAL CHANCES. I THINK WE SHOULD TRY TO FIND WAYS OF PUTTING THE HOOK IN THE LIP/MOUTH AREA FOR THE SAKE OF THE EELS LIFE. EVEN IF IT MEANS LESS EELS ON THE BANK FOR US PERSONALLY.

PART TWO WILL FOLLOW IN THE NEXT MAGAZINE IF THE EDITOR THINKS IT IS WORTHWHILE.



EX-MEMBER DAVE HOLMAN IN THE LATE 70'S WITH A FINE PAIR OF MERE CAUGHT FISH.

WHATS IN STORE

It's only 4 days to go now, and I'm as excited as a kid at Christmas. To 'normal' people I suppose it must seem odd that the beginning of the Season, the glorious 16th can capture the imagination of so many. By now we've all made plans, discussed approaches, bought all those new essential items we need so badly, and are champing at the bit for the stroke of midnight June 15th/16th. For my part the close season has gone by in a blur after being kept too busy to really dwell on my state of deprivation. Anyway it's over now so what's in store?

Well for my part the 16th will start at the water I am in charge of for 'Glamorgan Anglers', the infamous Barry Res. I've held regular working parties at the Res. since mid May and as the ruling, most of the swims have been reserved for the big night. As for myself I am in the 'Kiddies' swim (not surprising really) called 'The Spookies'. This is the beaut (to quote Kevin) of swims, tucked right at the furthest end of the lake. It's a swim that I've landed several good fish from including a couple of 4lbbers and several 3lbbers. This swim incidentally has also produced a 7lb 10oz Eel to local Angler Bob Harris, would you believe on a peanut! Bob also professes to have lost a bigger fish that same night! But before you dismiss all that please bear in mind Bob has fished the Res. for some 10 years (often for Eels) and is no stranger to 5lbbers and the like.

As you may know by now, through previous magazines or by attending the N.A.C Meeting, this is the last year on Barry Res. By that I mean up until January 1st, 1995. After that the lake is to be used by Glamorgan Anglers as a stock pond until replacement waters are dug. This is of course good news in a way for many of us, as it means that the security of the eels stocked will remain safe until it is drained or finally netted. Also this season will see me starting up a Night Syndicate on two of our other waters (Glamorgan Anglers have a very strict night fishing ban). It was not without a great deal of wheeling and dealing that I've managed to pull this off, however, combine this with the fact that it now seems highly likely that I can arrange up to four N.A.C Fish Ins on Barry this year, where all fish caught are to be re-stocked into one of the Syndicate lakes I am running, and I think my master plan will begin to make itself clear!

Right that's enough for now, more details about the Fish Ins will appear in the next News Letter once I've sorted out the dates with Steve and Glamorgan Match Group so we don't clash at any time. One thing is sure however, the Fish In will include one night per session i.e. all day Saturday, Saturday night, all day Sunday and pull off dusk Sunday. Also no stoves of any description will be allowed! There are plenty of cafes, chippies locally.

If you are interested then please get in touch a.s.a.p.

Tight Ones.

Dave Board
Regional Organiser South
155 Pontypridd Road, Barry Tel. 0446 - 733983

SNAKE INFESTED WATERS

It took over an hour to work our way down the steep rocky walls of the gorge, down to where the river cascaded over two falls into a large and incredibly deep pool, before once again cascading down numerous smaller falls on its way to the power station. The river at this point was around 20 metres wide and the pool in front of us seemed virtually bottomless; Peter estimated 70 feet to be the depth. The cliff face above us was at least 200 feet high and almost vertical.

This was the Mangoataki River close to the Kuiti in the North Island of New Zealand in January this year (94). I was on a session with our fishing guide Peter Holbrook my fishing partner Nigel had decided to stay in bed today due to jet lag, so it was just Peter and myself on this session.

No matter how hard I cast the two eel rods out, the line always hung almost vertically under the rod tips in this, the deepest swim I'd ever fished. Possum meat was fished on one rod, goat meat on the other. Both rods were placed in optonics and lightweight bobbins clipped on the line for bite indication, as there was hardly any flow to speak of in the depths below.

The massive landing net was placed to one side in readiness for the first runs, which in New Zealand aren't usually too long in coming. I dipped a piece of towelling in the margin and wiped the sweat from my neck and face with it. As I opened my eyes I saw Peter pointing at the line where it entered the water. A couple of ripples appeared around it and the optonic beeped once. I was instantly alert with my hand hovering over the rod. Something had taken a liking to the fresh goat's meat.

Nothing happened for a minute or so until I lowered my hand away from the rod; as I sat back in the long grass and ferns, then suddenly a shrill single note ripped through the valley echoing up to the next pool. The clutch on the reel was spinning like crazy. I stood up and wacked the rod back for all I was worth, it stopped at about halfway up and jumped, kicked and bucked in my hands. The 18lb line twanged off rocks in the margins, making my heart miss a beat. The tug of war went on for ten minutes, until a big Eel lay in the net; on the scales it weighed 6½lb, and was still fighting in the sack an hour later. We fished until around 1a.m., after we had had another 12 Eels up to 6½lb with two big 5's included, all caught on raw meat.

The next day saw us making our way to another smaller river where the Eels were beyond our wildest dreams. But that's another story.

MARK ANDREWS



A TASTE OF THINGS TO COME, MARK WITH A 11 lb 8 oz NEWZEALAND SNAKE.

INFORMATION PIECE

THE MIDDLETON ANGLING SOCIETY 150TH CELEBRATIONS 1845 TO 1995

On Saturday 14th October in the year 1995, the Middleton Angling Society (which as far as can be ascertained is the fourth oldest club in Britain), will be celebrating its' 150th year.

To commemorate this auspicious occasion, the towns civic hall and buildings have been booked along with a number of guest speakers, single specie group displays and tackle displays.

Speakers already booked are Tony Mikes, Gordon Burton, England Team Manager Dick Clegg, with subject to availability Jim Gibbinson, Des Taylor and Fred J. Taylor. Celebrities present will include Tag Barnes, Eric Hodson, Tim Paisley with our M.C for the day being B.B.C Radio Lancashire's one and only Martin James.

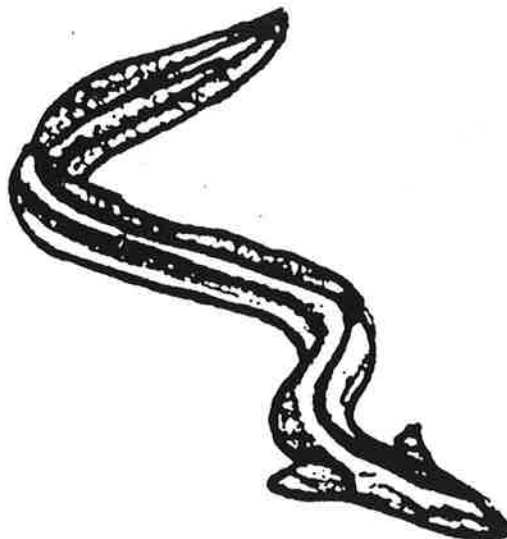
Single specie group displays will include the British Carp Study Group, the Cat Fish Conservation Group, the Perch Fishers, the Chub Study Group, the Barbel Catchers, the Zander Anglers Club, the National Anguilla Club, the National Association of Specialist Anglers, the Specialist Anglers Conservation Group, the Anglers Co-operative Association along with a few more subject to availability.

The event will run from 09.00 hours to 19.00 hours with a £3.00 admission fee on the door, the proceeds of which will go towards the local childrens' hospital funds.

If you require more details or would like to contribute with a stand or display, please contact me on 061 - 643 9328, 18 Poolbank, Rhodes, Middleton, Manchester, M24 4QH.

'Remember' 14th October 1995 - an event not to be missed!

Nick Melling.



FIRST OFF, LET ME SAY WELCOME TO THE NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST SEASON WITHIN THE CLUB, AND IF YOU ARE AN EXISTING, OLD SCHOOL MEMBER.... THEN HELLO ONCE AGAIN.

DUE TO PERSONAL REASONS OF HIS OWN, JERRY HAS DECIDED TO REST FROM HIS COMMITTEE POSITION THIS YEAR AND SO THIS SEASON I FIND MYSELF GOING ABOUT THE SOCIAL OFFICERS DUTIES ALONE. HOWEVER, IT IS AT THIS STAGE THAT I WOULD LIKE TO THANK HIM FOR HIS SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO ME AND THE NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB IN SEASONS PAST. THIS JOB IS NOT THE EASIEST IN THE CLUB AND I HOPE THAT SOMEONE WILL OFFER TO LET ME STAND DOWN AT THE NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

OK, ONWARD INTO THE NEW SEASON,.....WHAT DO I INTEND DOING IN MY CAPACITY AS SOCIAL OFFICER.?

WELL FOR KICK OFFS I HAVE THE DUBIOUS PLEASURE OF ORGANISING SOME FISH/INS FOR YOU, THE MEMBERS. LET ME STATE HERE AND NOW THAT I DON'T EXPECT YOU ALL TO ATTEND EVERY OR ANY OF THEM. WHAT I HOPE WILL HAPPEN, IS THAT FIRSTLY SOME OF YOU WILL COME ALONG AND FISH NEW WATERS AND SECONDLY ENJOY YOURSELVES AND THIRDLY CATCH AN EEL THAT'LL MAKE THE EFFORT WORTH WHILE. I CAN HELP WITH THE FIRST, MAKE SURE OF THE SECOND, BUT CAN ONLY PRAY HARD FOR THE THIRDD.....I ORGANISE FISH/INS BECAUSE THAT IS ONE OF THE ROLES I HAVE IN THE STRUCTURE OF THE N.A.C. NO MORE, NO LESS.....WHAT DO YOU GAIN FROM THEM???...THE CHANCE TO ACQUIRE THE TROPHY FOR 'BEST EEL ON A CLUB TRIP' AND JOINING A BAND OF WONDEROUS EEL ANGLERS WHO HAVE DONE THE DEED AND WROTE THE BOOK!!!

ALSO THIS YEAR, I INTEND TO PLACE THE CLUB IN THE MINDS OF ALL THE ANGLERS OUT THERE FISHING FOR DIFFERENT SPECIES.....HOWS THAT MATEY??...WELL I AIM TO TAKE THE N.A.C. BOARD AROUND THE COUNTRY AND DISPLAY IT AT MANY OF THE DIFFERENT FISHING CONFERENCES, GAME FAIRS AND THE LIKE. HELPED, I HOPE, BY THE 'WHEN ARE WE GONNA STOP AT THE LITTLE CHEF BRIGADE'. IT WON'T BE EASY BECAUSE I'M IN THE PROCESS OF TRYING TO MOVE HOUSE AND THE OLD FINANCES WILL BE LIKE A PIECE OF OLD KNICKER ELASTIC...SOMETIMES IT WON'T STRETCH PAST THE PRIORITY. BUT WE ARE GONNA TRY. I ALSO INTEND RELAYING INFORMATION TO THE MEDIA, WEEKLY AND MONTHLY. I'VE UPSET THE 'ANGLERS MAIL' ALREADY THROUGH NOT BULL***** ENOUGH TO GET MY OWN WAY...BUT I'M LEARNING FAST. JOKING APART, I THINK THAT OUR BEST BET LIES WITHIN THE MONTHLY MAGAZINES, AND AS SUCH, IT IS THESE I WILL BE TARGETING. IE..SPECIALIST ANGLER, SPECIALIST ANGLING WORLD, COARSE ANGLER ECT.

I WILL BE USEING INFO GIVEN TO ME BY YOU THE MEMBERS AS WELL AS MY OWN THOUGHTS AND RESULTS...SO IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT DON'T TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK OR HOW YOUR DOING.

LASTLY, I WANT TO PURSUE ANY PROBLEMS REGARDING EEL FISHING OR PREVENTION OF EEL FISHING IN ANY MEMBERS AREA. TO DO THIS THOUGH, I NEED YOU, YES YOU THERE, TO TELL ME WHAT THE PROBLEMS ARE. IF IT'S A CLUB, I WILL NEED AN ADDRESS SO THAT CONTACT CAN BE MADE IN ORDER TO FIND THE PROBLEM AND TRY TO SOLVE IT. IF ITS A PERSONAL PROBLEM..... SEE THE DOCTOR..ONLY KIDDING!!!

SERIOUSLY IF YOU HAVE AN ANGLING PROBLEM THAT IS BUGGING YOU, WRITE TO ME, AND IF I CAN'T HELP I CAN FIND A MAN THAT MAY BE ABLE TO, FAILING THAT IT CAN THEN GO INTO THE MAGAZINE.

WELL THATS ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE PROBLEM IN FRONT OF ME, HOPEFULLY I CAN CUT SOME OF THE CAKE TO SATISFY THE MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS AND ALSO DO A GOOD JOB FOR THE NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB. (I'M NOT INCLUDING THE ANGLERS MAIL IN MY TRIAL, COS IF I DO THEN I'M TO BE HANGED AT DAWN.)

*****TO ALL THOSE OUT THERE WHO SAY IT'S HUNG AT DAWN I SAY THIS..YOU DON'T SAY I'M JUST HUNGING AROUND DO YOU. HA/HA ..THIS IS LIKE THE RIDDLER IN BATMAN...BIFF..POW..SOCK..DOOF..SMASH..KERPOW.*****

YOURS.....'IN PRAYER'

Steve

I have been asked to write an article for the Club Magazine. As a new member, writing an article for such an experienced group of anglers is going to prove difficult. So I will write about my experiences over the last four years, fishing my own waters, and hopefully, provide some interest to fellow members.

You will find no mention of worms or other small food items, as they are completely useless on my waters, only resulting in a huge amount of bootlaces. My waters contain the predatory type of eel. From an early age, these eels learn to eat fish. They have developed large heads and require wire traces and the use of fish baits.

I have learned there is a lot more to deadbaiting than just throwing out a suitable bait to a likely looking area and then putting in the hours. True, it does work, but to get the best out of each water you need to be flexible in your approach, as each water can be very different from another.

I have found that eels have a definite food preference, what I term 'soft baits', such as rudd/roach sections, producing the most attention, while the use of hard baits, such as perch and eel sections, or my current favourite, roach/rudd heads, producing the better class of eels.

I have also found that where a water has been heavily fished, the use of fish baits that are alien to the water, such as trout, sea fish, etc., can produce a few extra fish. Modern flavourings could also be of use, something I intend to experiment with this summer. I firmly believe that like carp, the eel has the ability to learn to become very wary of certain baits.

SURFACE BAITS

These seem to produce well on some waters, but not on others, often taking the first fish of the session. The best type of water seems to be shallow and weedy, with dusk being the most productive time. The stage of the moon didn't seem to make any difference. A peculiarity I've found is that when an eel takes the bait on this type of rig, they tend to remain high up in the water, which makes the landing of the fish that much easier.

LIVE BAITS

A small livebait, about 4" long, fished on the surface rig or on a simple ledger rig, often outfishes any other bait. The trouble here is that large livebaits are needed to avoid catching the smaller eels, but they provide all sorts of problems such as the timing of the strike, and the hooking.

DEADBAITS

In our waters, the use of large deadbaits often produce the biggest eels, they also produce never ending runs and an awful lot of dropped baits. I think the reason for this is as follows:

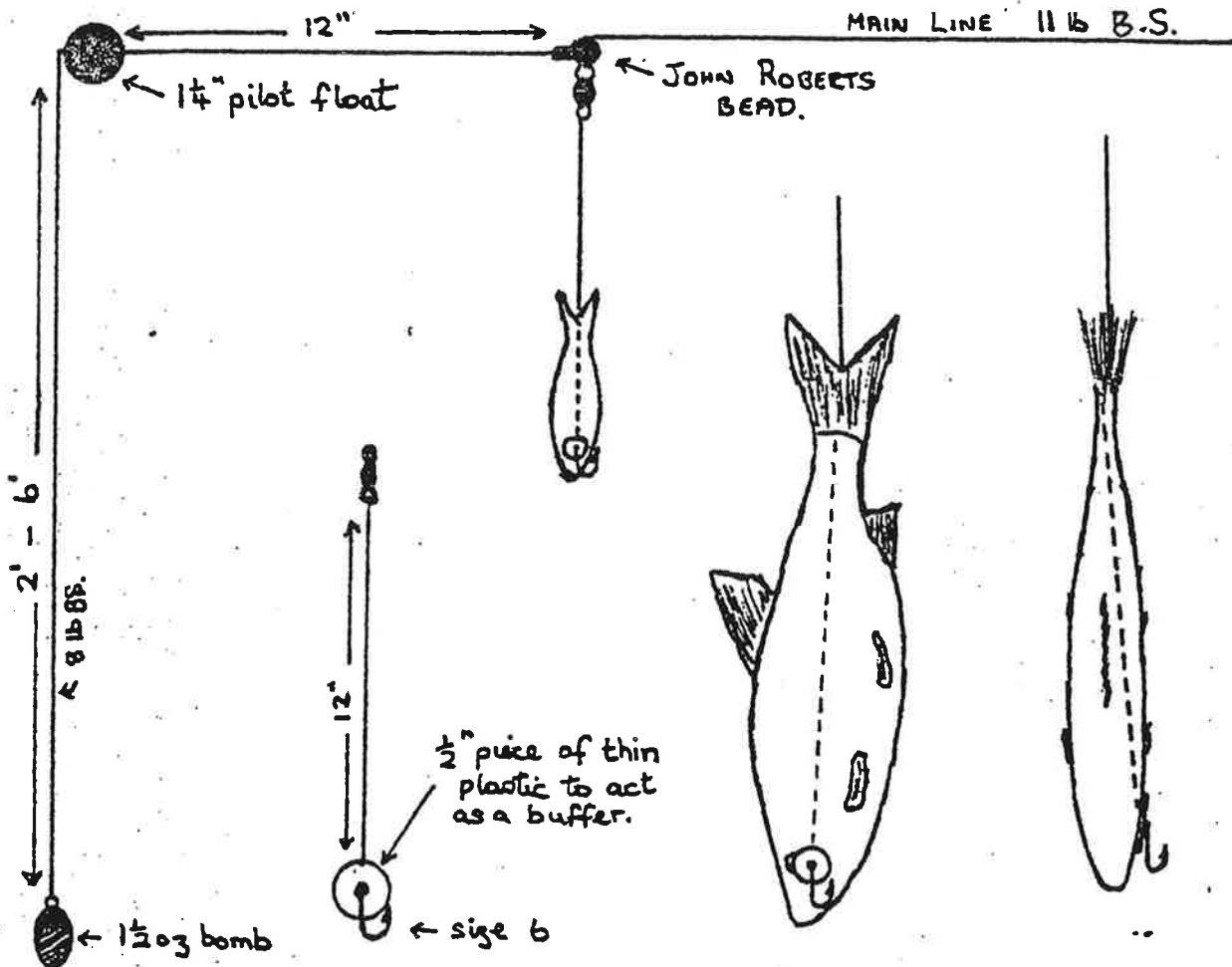


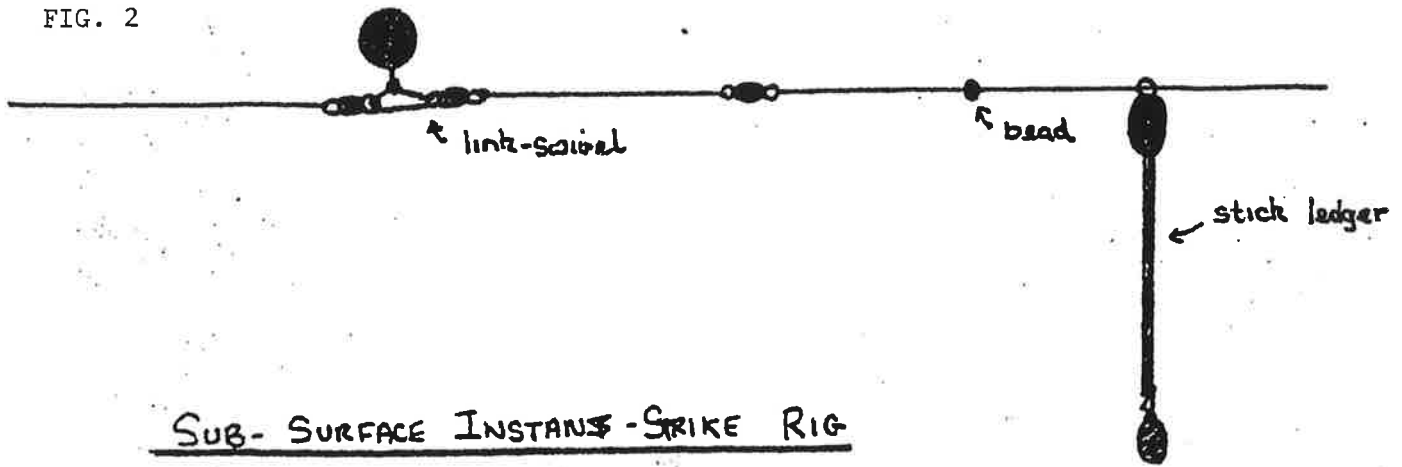
on picking up a small fish, the eel runs off a few yards to get away from any competition. It then stops and eats it then probably resumes feeding. However, on coming across a large bait, it sees enough food here for a few days and so belts off home with it to its lair. This can be a long distance. Thus the long runs give more distance, more resistance on the line and therefore more chance of the bait being rejected. Having now developed some new quick-strike rigs for use with large baits, I intend to try 6 - 8" baits to attempt to sort out the really big eels (Ed. could be worth a try at BALA).

SUB-SURFACE RIGS

See FIG 1. This shows my normal off the bottom rig or surface-fishing of shallow water up to 6'. The other rig (FIG 2.) is for surface fishing of waters over 6'. For this method, there is an additional swivel which helps cut down on the tangles. On both rigs, the bait hangs head down, with the eel usually attacking from below. The hook needs to be in this position as shown to avoid burying the hook into the bait. On a long cast I use a simple idea of Vic Bellars, a small circle of thin plastic is placed on the trace next to the hook to act as a buffer. The strike is made fairly quickly, usually after a few yards of line only is taken.

FIG. 1





SUB-SURFACE INSTANT-STRIKE RIG
FOR WATERS OVER 6ft DEEP.

LARGE DEADBAIT RIG

This rig is made up as shown (FIG 3) - a pike rig with one small difference. The added nylon link allows you to retrieve the bait should you miss a run.

There are three reasons for this:

- a. I'm just naturally tight with my baits.
- b. Leaving such a nice meal lying around, a large eel (over 11lb) is bound to pick this up, rather than your nice fresh one, and that's the last you'll see of it for several days.
- c. Most important - providing the bait isn't too mangled and is re-cast, its surprising how often a run is quick to follow, something I've also noticed in my piking.

These are comparatively new rigs, only developed at the end of last season, and as yet have not had sufficient trial to evaluate their effectiveness, although early results look promising.

To finish off, it has been quite noticeable that most of our best eels have been caught at dawn, that is, one hour before the sun rises to about two hours after, and in most cases, the baits have remained untouched during the night.

Last point - FIG 4. is the rig I use for my small fish sections and other small food items.

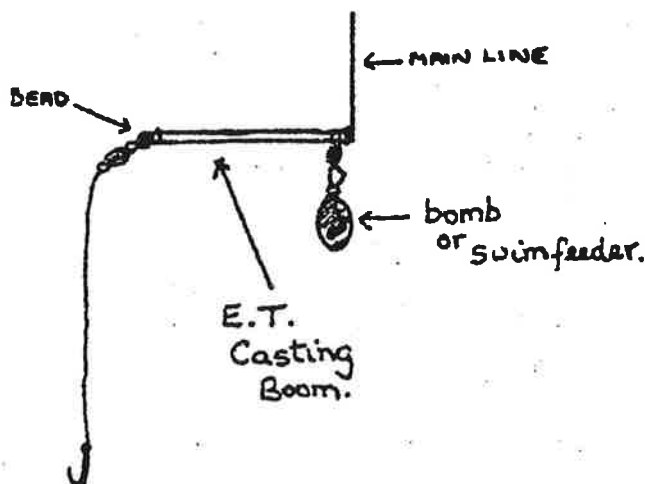


FIG. 4

LARGE DEADBAIT, INSTANT STRIKE - RIG.

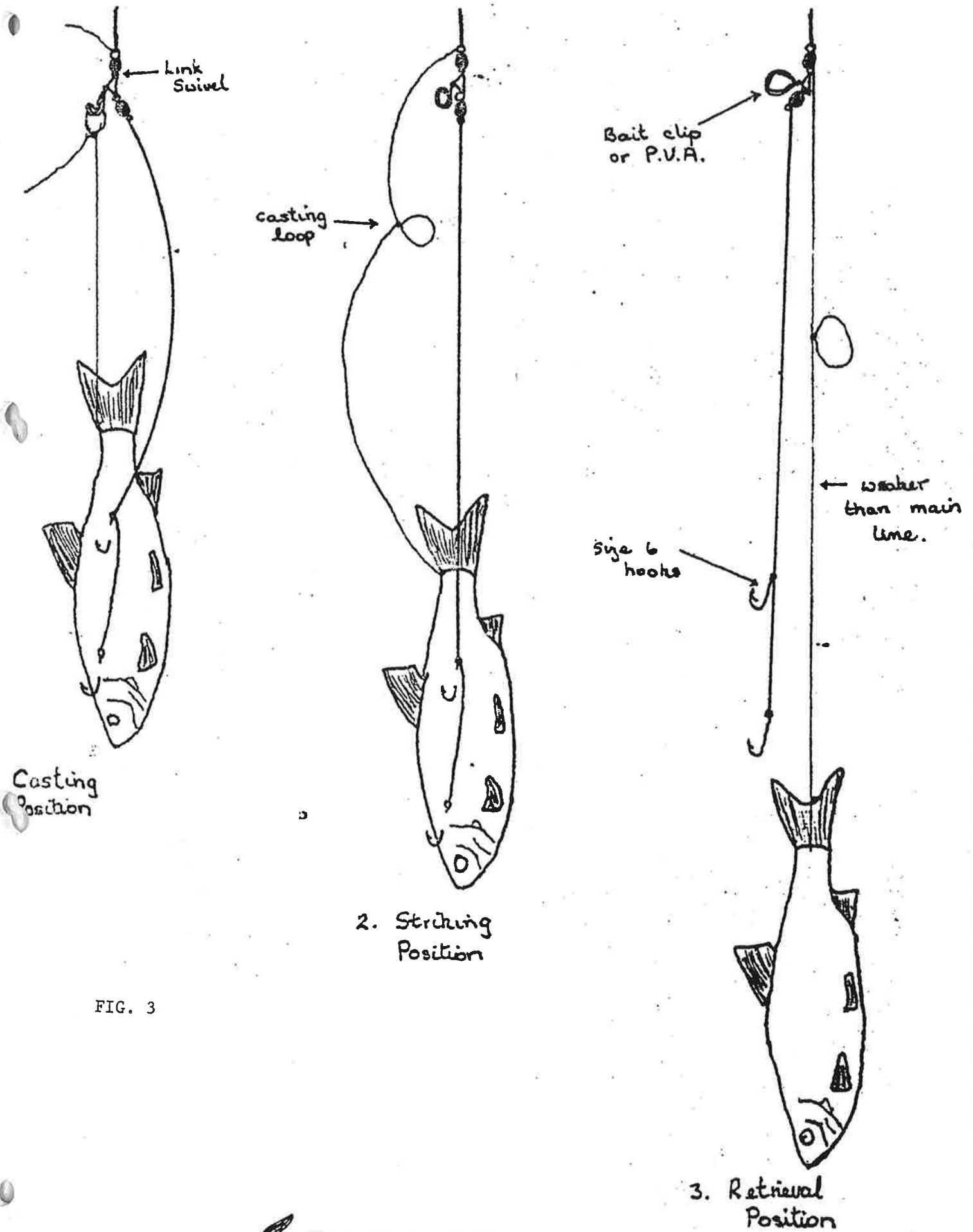


FIG. 3

Thinking Aloud II

First of all I must apologise for subjecting members to my self oppinionated ramblings. I was going to write a piece on an evening's Eel fishing when I landed two 7lb Eels within an hour of each other, but until I actually catch two 7lb Eels within an hour of each other, or for that matter catch an Eel in excess of 3lb (my P.B), then I will have to put that story on hold for a little while and instead continue with my Pertinacious Philosophy's (blame the shortage of material).

The last Bulletin (the yellow one), absolutely brilliant Dave, a truly professional publication well fitting for the esteemed National Anguilla Club. Would it be possible to actually number each issue and have a date on the front? Maybe now that we have a magazine of such high quality, we could consider giving this publication a more fitting name other than just "The Bulletin"? How about the "Eel Angler" or "Anguilla" (how original). The front cover was brilliant Dave, especially with the Eel's head (I'll skip the obvious Mother in Law jokes).

On content again first class. I enjoyed Brian's piece on Colemere, very atmospheric. I could almost feel the bend in Brian's rod and would say the title didn't do the piece justice. Nice descriptions of the Fish In's at Wybosten and Emberton by Steve. Yes you were quite right in cancelling the Wraysbury Fish In. Being an Angler who has come under sniper fire in the past, I can well speak with authority. The photo call made a nice touch for a centre page spread, with the black and white shots coming out quite reasonably (is Erica Tomlinson attached?).

Barry Edwards "Questions and Answers" is a step in the right direction, maybe we could have a rotary letter which may analyse problems and show the experience of other members in relation to these problems.

I'm not an Eel angler by design, but I'm often intrigued by the odd 6lb fish thrown up occasionally by a water which was previously thought not to hold Eels. Yet I am told that most waters are likely to hold a fish or two, which in turn get caught by chance Anglers fishing for other species. If this type of water is rarely if ever fished for by Eel Anglers, how could I find out its' potential, and would it be viable to fish, call it a low density stocked water for the possible odd Eel? Apart from local knowledge, where else could you get information? Is such a fish resident to one or more areas, or do they tend to be nomadic? What of high attraction baits using flavour or oil injections? Maybe someone could answer my questions.

Many years ago before Carp fishing came into the prominence it now has, we would search for Carp in waters which showed no sign of Carp. Some of these waters held only a few or maybe no Carp at all. The way we would find out the potential of such sparsely stocked waters would be to bait up potential looking areas with hemp seed beds and try to fish each spot on a rota system, ideally as a group. The method usually gave us some idea if Carp were present. Maybe it's possible or already being used in Eel fishing circles with Eel attraction baits (enough to get one in the area without actually feeding) any ideas please?

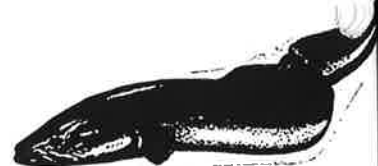
Moving on, yes an excellent magazine, stay with us Dave and hold on in there Kevin.

Kindest Regards

Nick Melling.



The National Anguilla Club



THE TIME FOR CHANGE...BY STEVE RICHARDSON

(MY PERSONAL VIEW FOR BETTER PLANNING WITHIN THE NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB)

KEVIN HUIISH AND MYSELF SPEND ALOT OF TIME COMMUNICATING WITH EACH OTHER VIA BRITISH TELECOM AND THE POSTAL SYSTEM EACH YEAR. THE SUBJECT MOST OF THE TIME IS EEL FISHING, AND FISHING IN GENERAL. BUT DURING THE WINTER MONTHS, NOVEMBER ONWARDS, THE SUBJECT IS THE FINE LINE OF FINANCE AND THE POTENTIAL SURVIVAL OF THE NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB, AS WE KNOW IT.

WHY IS THIS THEN?...AND WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR IT AT THIS TIME OF YEAR.?

EVERY YEAR THE NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB HAS TWO ORGANISED MEETINGS, THESE ARE....THE SPRING MEETING

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

THE SPRING MEETING IS HELD IN LATE MARCH AND THE A.G.M. IS HELD IN EARLY NOVEMBER.

THE CLUB YEAR RUNS FROM NOVEMBER 1st TO OCTOBER 31st EACH YEAR. SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE FROM NOVEMBER 1st EACH YEAR.

THE ABOVE IS A GENERAL BREAKDOWN OF THE N.A.C.... ANYONE READING THE DATES SHOULD SEE THAT EVERYTHING IS BACK TO FRONT WITH REGARD TO A WELL ORGANISED CLUB.

LET ME EXPLAIN, BECAUSE, UNLESS YOU ARE INVOLVED WITH THE CLUB FROM A COMMITTEE POINT OF VIEW, YOU WILL NOT BE CONVERSANT WITH THE PROBLEMS THAT OCCURR.

KEVIN HUIISH, 'THE CHAIRMAN', IS ALSO OUR MEMBERSHIP TREASURER AND AS SUCH IS IN CONTROL OF THE MONIES THAT THE CLUB HAS IN IT'S BANK BALANCE. THE MAIN WAY THAT THE N.A.C. ACQUIRES MONEY IS THROUGH MEMBERS. THIS HAS BEEN SLIGHTLY CHANGED NOW DUE TO THE CLUB HAVING A PRODUCTS SECTION, BUT IN THE MAIN THE MEMBERSHIP PROVIDES THE BULK OF MONEY THAT THE CLUB HAS.

THIS MONEY IS SPENT IN VARIOUS WAYS.

- a. IT PAYS FOR THE CLUB MAGAZINE AND NEWSLETTERS.
- b. IT PAYS OUR YEARLY SUBS TO THE A.C.A. AND N.A.S.A.
- c. IT COVERS OUR DONATIONS TO THE S.A.C.G. AND "FOSTER AN ANGLER", (AND ANY OTHERS I MAY HAVE MISSED OUT.?)
- d. IT COVERS EXPENSES FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS FULLFILLING THEIR ROLES AS OFFICERS OF THE CLUB. IE..PHONE CALLS, POSTAGE AND STATIONARY, CLUB TRIP DEPOSITS, (IF NEEDED) AND THE SETTING UP OF AREAS LIKE THE PRODUCTS SECTION.
- e. IT PAYS FOR THE TROPHIES EACH YEAR.

QUITE A LOT FOR A SMALL CLUB EH!.

FROM NOVEMBER ONWARDS THESE THINGS HAVE TO BE CALCULATED FOR BY KEVIN AND THEN PAID. THE TROUBLE IS, WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY IN THE BANK TO COVER ALL OF THESE THINGS USUALLY, AND KEVIN SPENDS MOST OF HIS SPARE TIME WRITING LETTERS TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT REPAID THEIR SUBS, AND WORRYING HOW WE ARE GOING TO MEET OUR OBLIGATIONS. KEVIN AND I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS SITUATION MANY TIMES IN ORDER TO FIND A CURE AND AFTER SOME THOUGHT IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT IT WAS'NT COMPLETELY THE MEMBERS FAULT THAT THEY HAD'NT PAID UP ON TIME.

THE MEMBERSHIP ARE TOLD THAT SUBS ARE DUE IN A LETTER, SENT TO THEM IN LATE OCTOBER, WHICH ALSO INFORMS THEM OF THE A.G.M. DATE AND VENUE. ALL THOSE THAT ATTEND THE A.G.M. ARE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PAY THEIR SUBS ON THE DAY BUT THOSE THAT DON'T ATTEND MAY WELL HAVE PUT THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER TO THE BACK OF THEIR MIND. NOT REALLY A STRANGE THING, GIVEN THOUGHT, AS WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND IS GONNA THINK ABOUT PAYING THEIR SUBS AT THE END OF THE EELING SEASON. IT IS EASY TO SAY THAT MEMBERS SHOULD JUST WRITE A CHEQUE AND SEND IT IN, BUT MOST MEMBERS HAVE PROBABLY BEEN PIKE FISHING FOR ABOUT A MONTH, AND EELS ARE THE LAST THINGS ON THEIR MINDS, OR THEY HAVE PUT THEIR RODS AWAY FOR THE WINTER AND ARE WAITING FOR THE SPRING TO COME ROUND AGAIN.

I BELIEVE THAT THE CLUB SHOULD CHANGE IT'S MEETING DATES AROUND AND THEN THIS PROBLEM WILL BE SOLVED TO A DEGREE. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE MEMBERS WHO DON'T PAY ON TIME, AND THESE SHOULD BE AFFECTED BY A LATE REJOINING FEE IF THEY CANNOT GET THEIR ACT TOGETHER. HOWEVER, I THINK MOST MEMBERS WOULD BE IN THE RIGHT FRAME OF MIND TO GET INVOLVED AND PAY UP AT THE BEGINNING OF THE EEL SEASON. MARCH/APRIL TIME.

AT THE SPRING MEETING, MARCH 20th 1994, I PROPOSED THAT THE ABOVE SUBJECT BE PLACED ON THE OFFICAL A.G.M. AGENDA, TO BE DISCUSSED AND PASSED SO THAT IT CAME INTO PRACTICE FOR THE FOLLOWING SPRING..1995...THIS WAS AGREED BY THOSE PRESENT AND BRIAN CRAWFORD ASKED ME TO DO AN ARTICLE ON MY PROPOSITION SO THAT THE FULL MEMBERSHIP COULD READ IT AND HOPEFULLY PASS ON THEIR THOUGHTS VIA THE MAGAZINE, OR NEWSLETTERS, BEFORE THE A.G.M. IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR.

I AM ASKING THAT THE A.G.M. BE HELD IN THE SPRING AND COVER THE OFFICERS REPORTS, RE/ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE CLUB FOR THAT YEAR..IE CLUB TRIPS, FOLLOWED BY A SLIDE SHOW/ SOCIAL GET TOGETHER. THERE SHOULD BE LOTS TO TALK ABOUT AS THE NEW SEASON WOULD BE UPON US. EXCITEMENT AND ADRENALIN RUNNING THE MEETING.

THE AUTUMN MEETING BEING FOR THE TROPHY PRESENTATIONS AND CATCH REPORTING. THE OFFICES REPORTS BEING KEPT TO A MINIMUM SO AS TO KEEP THE MEETING FROM BOREING THE MEMBERS PRESENT. THERE COULD THEN BE A SLIDE SHOW, TO WIND THE MEETING UP ON A HIGH NOTE.

I HOPE THAT YOU, THE MEMBERSHIP, WILL SUPPORT MY PROPOSAL AND THAT THE FUTURE OF THE NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB WILL CONTINUE ON A STRONGER AND MORE STABLE FOOTING FOR MANY, MANY YEARS TO COME.

*** FOR ANYONE WHO WAS NOT AT THE SPRING MEETING, I HAVE TO SAY YOU MISSED A BRILLIANT SLIDE SHOW AND TALK BY MARK 'THE HAKA' ANDREWS, ON EEL FISHING IN NEW ZEALAND. I HAVE STATED IN PAST MAGAZINES THAT NEW ZEALAND EELING WAS NOT FOR ME. BUT I WISH TO SAY, HERE AND NOW, THAT MARKS TALK WAS THAT GOOD THAT I CAN NOW SEE WHY HE RAVED ABOUT IT BEFORE. I DON'T THINK ANYBODY PRESENT WOULD DISSAGREE WITH ME. IF THEY DO, THEN THEY ARE EITHER DEAF OR BLIND OR BOTH. THE GOOD NEWS IS... THAT PARTS TWO AND THREE ARE TO FOLLOW AT THE NEXT TWO MEETINGS. MISS THESE AND YOU HAVE ONLY YOURSELVES TO BLAME, NOW THAT I HAVE PUT YOU IN THE PICTURE.

AGAIN ONCE MARK, I WOULD JUST LIKE TO SAY THANKS FOR A SUPERB AND EXCITEING TALK. IT MADE THE MEETING FOR ME, AT LEAST, AND I KNOW THAT ERICA, KARL AND AMANDA ALSO THOUGHT IT WAS BRILLIANT. ALL THE CLUB NEEDS NOW IS THE RETURN OF 'Mr LOBSTERBUSH' AND THINGS WILL LOOK ROSIER FOR THIS COMING YEAR.

abigail advises

Dear Abigail,

Recently whilst I have been angling for Pike and Eels, I have felt rather peckish, and had to pop off the local grocers to buy something to eat. Unfortunately, my favourite cheese Double Gloucester is sold by the pound and when I have consumed that amount I feel sick and have to lie down for several hours making it difficult to strike runs.

Yours nauseously
Nick M. Manchester

Dear Nick,

Although it is usually priced by the pound, it is often possible to buy cheese in smaller amounts. Most shops will happily supply you with a smaller amount on request. You may for instance try purchasing a couple of ounces at a time.

Abigail

Dear Abigail,

My wife and I have recently had to move home as our last house simply did not have enough storage space to contain my extensive array of fishing equipment. My idea of moving the children to the garden shed was frowned upon by my wife and so we have purchased a fine solid built Wimpey home. Unfortunately there are several rectangular holes in the walls of the house. Can you offer us any advice.

Yours Barry E. Essex

Dear Barry,

Try filling these holes with wooden doors and glass windows. As well as preventing heat loss I think you will find it is a super deterrent to would-be burglars. I must add that your wife's attitude worries me. I advise that you visit Relate Marriage Guidance or write to me again with lurid details of your sexual kinks in order that I may help you.

Abigail

Dear Abigail,

Whilst angling through the night for eels with a few friends, we became involved in a conversation about football. Can you settle an argument for us. In the F.A. cup final of 1973 Billy Bremner of Leeds was sent off. Was it for headbutting his opponent Gary Lineker of Sheffield Wednesday or for calling the referee a bastard. Who is correct?

Yours puzzled
David Glamorgan

Dear David,

I'm sorry I couldn't tell you. However, both butting an opponent and swearing at the referee are red card offences, as incidentally would be butting the referee. However, running around crying like a fat overgrown baby because you've been bloody stupid enough to get booked so you can't play in the final is not, neither is being photographed wearing stupid Italian clothes and posing with your dumb blonde girlfriend in every tabloid newspaper in the country but God knows they should be.

Abigail.

SELF-HOOKING... IS IT THE THE ANSWER TO ALL OUR DREAMS OR PART OF IT ???.

WHAT IS THE DREAM??

I THINK THE DREAM IS... AS MANY EELS HOOKED IN THE MOUTH AS POSSIBLE.
BUT IS THAT ATTAINABLE??

THIS WRITTEN PIECE COVERS 'SOFT' BAIT ONLY, DEADBAITS ARE YET ANOTHER PROBLEM. WHEN WE TALK ABOUT BAIT WE MUST SEPERATE DEADS FROM OTHERS DUE TO THE PLACING OF THE HOOK ON A LARGER AND MORE DIFFERENT BAIT BASE. (I LIKEN THIS TO US EATING GRAPES AS OPPOSED TO A STICK OF ROCK. WE HAVE TO SET OURSELVES A DIFFERENT EATING MODE.)
THE FOLLOWING IS PART OF A LETTER I WROTE SOME MONTHS AGO AND KEPT BECAUSE I FELT AN ARTICLE WAS IN IT SOMEWHERE. IT'S A BIT 'BISH BASH' TO SAY THE LEAST AND IS WRITTEN WITH DEBATE IN MIND FROM THE MEMBERS OF THIS ANGLING CLUB.

IT'S BEEN MY THOUGHTS FOR A WHILE NOW THAT EELS ARE CLEVERER THAN WE FIRST THOUGHT AND I RECKON THAT THEY WISE UP VERY QUICKLY WITH BAIT ECT... LET ME PUT DOWN MY FEELINGS ON THE SUBJECT AND YOU, THE READER, SEND YOUR THOUGHTS INTO THE MAGAZINE FOR DISCUSSION. THE OBJECT BEING THAT WE ALL LEARN SOMETHING FROM THE DEBATE, IF, OF COURSE, THERE IS SOMETHING TO LEARN IN THE FIRST PLACE.

IF YOU GET LUCKY AND FISH A WATER THAT HAS HAD NO EELING PRESSURE, THEN THE CHANCES ARE YOU WILL GET ALOT OF ACTION IN THE BEGINNING AND IT WILL TAIL OFF AS TIME GOES ON, PROVIDED THAT THE WATER HAS EELS IN IT IN THE FIRST PLACE. WE HAVE HEARD IT SAID "THAT EELS GET HOOKED ONCE AND THEN SOD OFF ELSE WHERE, OUT OF THE WAY"...OUT OF THE WAY OF WHAT??. DO EELS KNOW THAT WE ARE FISHING AND WHEN WE WILL TURN UP EH!?...DOES THAT EEL NEVER EAT AGAIN INCASE THERE IS A HOOK IN IT??.WELL, WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, EELS PROBABLY DO WHAT MOST FISH DO AND THAT IS INSPECT THE FOOD SOURCE MORE CAREFULLY BEFORE COMMITTING ITSELF TO EATING IT. (I WAS GONNA SAY INSPECT THE BAIT BUT HOW DOES THE EEL KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR BAIT AND NATURAL FOOD,?...UNLESS IT HAS HAD A BAD EXPERIENCE EATING IN THE RECENT PAST.) WHEN YOU LOOK AT VIRGIN WATERS, IT IS'NT SUPPRISING THAT THE TAKES ARE FAST AND NO-NONSENSE JOBS..AFTER ALL, WHAT HAS THE EEL GOT TO STOP AND INSPECT THE FOOD SORCE FOR, IT HAS'NT HAD A PROBLEM BEFORE AND INSTINCT TELLS IT TO TAKE THE FOOD AND RUN BEFORE ANOTHER EEL HAS IT AWAY BEFORE IT...I DO THINK THAT EELS CAN PASS ON INFORMATION SUCH AS DANGER TO OTHER EELS, I MEAN HOW CAN NEARLY EVERYTHING ELSE LIVING PASS ON SUCH INFORMATION AND NOT OLD ANGUILLA EH!.....SO AFTER THE RELATIVLY SHORT, GOOD TIMES ON A NEW WATER ARE OVER, THE RUNS TAIL OFF AND MAY EVEN STOP, IT'S HERE THAT THE HELICOPTER RIG MIGHT HAVE IT'S DRAWBACKS... BUT NOT ON NEW WATERS.. OR.. WELL STOCKED WATERS OR.. HUNGRY, CAN'T GET OUT OF, WATERS....LOOK AT THESE ILLUSTRATIONS.

1..KEMPTON.....WATER CONTAINING SMALL HEAD OF LARGE EELS AND HAS HAD A LOT OF PRESSURE..MAURICE HAD CAUGHT LOTS OF EELS FROM KEMPTON BEFORE ANYONE ELSE FISHED FOR THE EELS. (PRESSURE.) THE ONLY PEOPLE EXPERIENCING EEL TAKES NOW ARE THE ONES USEING FREE RUNNING RIGS AND THEN TAKES ARE TWITCHY AFFAIRS SLOWLY DEVELOPING INTO TAKES..UNLESS A

NEW FOOD SOURCE IS FOUND THAT THE EELS WILL ACCEPT, THE WATER WILL NEVER BE AS IT WAS. THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT THERE IS THE CHANCE OF A MASSIVE EEL FROM KEMPTON IF TIME IS ON YOUR SIDE OR THE FOOD SOURCE IS FOUND, BUT MICK SPENT ALL SEASON ON THERE AND FISHED FREE RUNNING RIGS AND ONLY HAD THREE CHANCES THAT WERE DEFINATE EELS . . TWO LANDED AND ONE LOST. TONY USED RUNNING RIGS AND HAD TWO EELS AND SOME RUNS BUT THE RUNS COULD HAVE BEEN SMALL CARP, LIKE MICKS TAKES COULD HAVE BEEN, AS THEY WERE USEING WORMS AS BAIT. . . . NICK, MAURICE AND I HAD ONE TAKE BETWEEN US, THAT WAS ON MY ROD AND WAS PROBABLY A SMALL CARP AS IT DID'NT FEEL LIKE AN EEL. WE WERE ALL USEING CHOPPER RIGS. (HAD THE EELS CAUGHT OVER THE FIRST FEW SEASONS EDUCATED THE REMAINING STOCK TO BE WARY OF FOOD, HAD THE EELS CHANGED FOOD SOURCE OR HAVE THEY DIED AND THE EEL STOCK IS NOW VERY SMALL AND LOCATION IS NOW THE PROBLEM???)

2. .ARDINGLY RES. .THIS WATER HAS HAD SO MUCH EEL PRESSURE THAT IT'S GETTING MORE DIFFICULT TO CATCH EELS EACH YEAR FOR THOSE USEING FREE RUNNING RIGS NEVER MIND TRYING THE CHOPPER RIG THERE FOR RESULT ANALASIS.

JESUS, WHAT PLONKER TAKES THE VEIW THAT THE HELICOPTER RIG WILL IMPROVE RUN RATES. .THE ONLY THING THE RIG OFFERS IS A MOUTH HOOK HOLD, ***** HAS LOST SIGHT OF WHAT THE RIG IS BEING USED FOR. I WOULD'NT USE THE HELICOPTER RIG ON A HARD WATER AFTER THIS SEASON, UNLESS THE WATER WAS HARD DUE TO FEW EELS. IF THE WATER WAS HARD DUE TO ANGLING PRESSURE THEN I WOULD USE A VARIATION OF THE CHOPPER RIG, INCREASING THE BACK STOP TO ALLOW THE EEL TO MOVE OFF WITH THE BAIT, AND GAIN CONFIDENCE BEFORE THE HOOK WAS DRIVEN HOME OR I WOULD USE AS RESISTANT FREE RIG AS I COULD GET AWAY WITH, BUT WOULD STRIKE AT THE FIRST OFFERING OF A TAKE THAT SHOWED. ONCE AGAIN HOOK PLACEMENT COMES INTO PLAY.

LETS GET THINGS INTO PERSPECTIVE, WE ALL KNOW THAT IF WE FIND A WATER THAT HAS NOT SEEN ANYONE FISH IT FOR EELS THAT THE RESULTS COULD BE STAGGERING. .REGARDLESS OF THE RIGS USED. BUT THE HELICOPTER RIG IS THE BEST ONE TO USE FIRST OFF, FROM THE CONSERVATION SIDE OF THINGS. WHEN THE TAKES TAIL OFF YOU MAY HAVE TO CHANGE OVER TO FREE RUNNING RIGS TO GET TAKES. .BUT. .WE ALL KNOW THAT THE FIRST EELS FROM A WATER ARE USUALLY THE BIGGEST EELS ON NORMAL WATERS. HOW MANY TIMES HAS IT BEEN SAID THAT THE SIZE OF THE EELS HAS DROPPED WITH ANGLING PRESSURE AND CAPTURES. ON SPECIAL WATERS THAT HAVE NOT GOT A LARGE POPULATION OF EELS THEN THE CHANCES ARE THAT ALL THE EELS ARE GONNA BE LARGE AND YOU MAY JUST HAVE TO PUT IN A LOT OF HOURS FOR THE RUNS TO MATERIALISE. SIZE OF WATER HAS TO PLAY A PART IN THIS LAST STATEMENT DON'T IT, I MEAN. .SIX 61b'ers IN A LAKE ONE AND A HALF ACRES IN SIZE ARE GONNA BE EASIER TO LOCATE, THAN IN A LAKE THE SIZE OF ARDINGLY RES. SO INSTEAD OF CHANGING THE RIGS, YOU COULD WELL DO WITH MOVING ON TO FRESH WATERS AND NEW FISH.

THE ABOVE IS ALL WELL AND GOOD FOR THOSE OF US WITH TIME TO TRAVEL AND WITH ENOUGH WATERS TO GO AT. HOWEVER, THIS ALSO SHOWS WHY WE SHOULD FISH A COUPLE OF WATERS ON A ROTA BASIS AND NOT JUST FISH ONE WATER TO OBLIVION. I REALLY DO THINK THAT THIS IS THE WORST THING THAT WE CAN DO. I KNOW IT'S HARD TO LET A WATER REST AFTER A COUPLE OF GOOD EELS HAVE BEEN CAUGHT BUT IT REALLY IS THE MOST SENSIBLE THING TO DO IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT. ERICA AND I HAVE TAKEN ON A POLICY OF MOVING BETWEEN WATERS AND IF WE GET LUCKY AND HAVE A GOOD FISH WE LET THE WATER REST FOR A FEW

WEEKS..THIS IS BECAUSE WE ARE LOOKING AT SMALLISH WATERS NOT HUGE
RESSIES, I THINK THAT LARGE EELS ARE JUST AS AT HOME IN SMALL WATERS AS
VERY LARGE ONES, BUT THE ADVANTAGE OF SMALL WATERS IS THE EELS ARE
LOCATED QUICKER. IF EVERYTHING IS RIGHT..WEATHER, BAIT AND TIMING..THEN
I RECKON YOU WILL CATCH EELS WITHIN THREE SESSIONS IF THEY ARE IN THE
WATER, FIVE IF YOU EXPERIMENT WITH BAITS. (WE WILL USE FOUR RODS BETWEEN
US AND THE BAIT VARIATION IS MORE THAN ENOUGH.)

**THIS STARTED OUT AS A SILLY LITTLE LETTER TO MAKE YOU SMILE AND GET
READY FOR CHRISTMAS AND HAS TURNED INTO A BLOODY ARTICLE PIECE.**

KEVIN YOU HAVE A WATER THAT IS DIFFERENT TO MOST EEL ANGLERS WATERS, IN
AS MUCH AS IT APPEARS TO BE A HUNGRY WATER AND THE EELS HAVE GOT TO TAKE
THE RISKS OF PICKING UP FOOD WHEN THEY COME ACROSS IT. BUT THE SLY
BUGGERS DON'T WOOF IT DOWN ON THE SPOT DO THEY, THEY SWIM OFF UNTIL THEY
FEEL THERE IS NO DANGER IN THE FOOD SOURCE AND THEN PLACE IT IN A
HOOKABLE POSITION. WHEN ERICA, MYSELF, YOU AND DAVE ARE ALL FISHING THE
PLACE FOR THE EELS THEN WE MAY SEE A CHANGE IN PLAN. THE RUNS MAY DROP
OFF..THE EELS MAY START WOOFING THE FOOD DOWN STRAIGHT AWAY AS MORE BAIT
GOES IN..THEY MAY CHANGE THEIR FEEDING TIMES AND IT MAY NOT BE A DAY
WATER ANYMORE. (SO IF THE RUNS DROP OFF WE HAVE TO FISH INTO DARK TO SEE
IF THE EELS HAVE BECOME WARY OF FEEDING IN THE DAYTIME.)..ONE OF US MAY
CATCH A SODDING MONSTER THAT SO FAR HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET TO BAITS
BECAUSE OF THE FEEDING HABITS OF THE EELS THAT LOOK SO HUNGRY AND PELT
OFF WITH BAIT AS SOON AS THEY FIND IT. MAYBE THIS EEL HAS JUST POODLED
AROUND BARRY RES AND IS IN SUCH GOOD NICK THAT SHE DON'T NEED TO RACE
AROUND ON THE FOOD CHASE WITH THE OTHERS. WE KNOW THAT THE RESSIE HAS
GOT SOME ROUGH LOOKING EELS IN IT BUT WE ALSO KNOW THAT A PERCENTAGE OF
THEM ARE ABSOLUTLY BEAUTIFULL, WELL CONDITIONED, CRACKERS OF EELS. JUST
MAYBE, TIME AND A FEW MORE ROD HOURS WILL PRODUCE THE EEL OF A LIFETIME
FOR ONE OF US.

I THINK THAT SOME OF THE ABOVE THOUGHTS ARE PROBABLY A LOAD OF OLD
TWADDLE, BUT IDEAS KEEP POPPING UP AND IT'S BEST TO WRITE THEM DOWN SO
THAT THEY CAN BE READ AT A LATER DATE AND THEN THROWN OUT IF THEY COME
TO MAKE NONSENSE. JUST LIKE THAT LAST SENTENCE.

FOOTNOTE*****

THIS IS AN EXTRACT OF A LETTER I WROTE TO KEVIN "THE CHAIRMAN" HUIISH
JUST BEFORE SANTA CALLED ROUND OUR HOUSE AT THE BACK END OF LAST YEAR, I
DECIDED TO SEND IT IN TO THE MAGAZINE BECAUSE IT HELD POINTS THAT I
WANTED TO PUT IN AN ARTICLE, BUT COULD'NT COMPILE ONE WITHOUT IT
SOUNDING LIKE I KNEW WHAT THE REAL ANSWER WAS... I DON'T KNOW ANYMORE
THAN THE NEXT EEL ANGLER BUT I KEEP GETTING IDEAS THAT TRAVEL DOWN THE
ROAD, LOOK LIKE THEY ARE GETTING THERE AND ALL OF A SUDDEN THERE IS A
HERD OF CATTLE BLOCKING THE WAY. I AIN'T A FARMER BUT OUT THERE IN
MAGAZINE LAND THERE MIGHT BE ONE, IF YOU THINK YOU CAN GET THE COWS OUT
OF THE ROAD, OR JUST MILK COWS, THEN I LOOK FORWARD TO READING YOUR
THOUGHTS ON THE ABOVE JUMBLE.

YOURS 'CHEWING THE CUD'

Slime

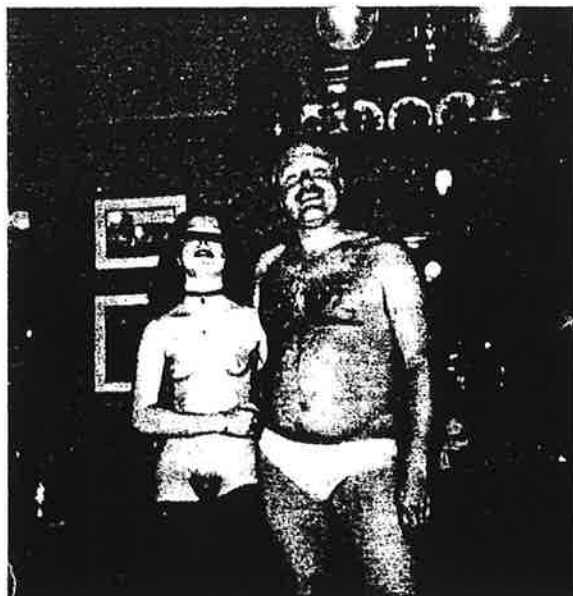
An ugly rumour (put about by myself), has it that Simon Board is to write an article for the next Bulletin. The piece is to be called 'Gettting the best from other people's bait', which usually happens to be mine!

Born again vegan and self styled Gládiator, our lovable Chairman, when asked what he wanted to order food wise for Opening Night at Barry Res., pizza, chips, Indian or Chinese was alleged to reply with a simple yes!

Lucan lives up to his name of late! Where are you?

Steve (I'm a Red Stripe Gardener) needs to understand that the re-dial button on his phone generally recalls the last number rung, and not necessarily the one he is thinking of.

WHO IS THIS STRANGE WOMAN WITH NICK (BLANKER) ROSE?



YOUNG SWINGING COUPLE AC/DC WISH TO MEET OTHERS INTO S.M, DOM, E.T.C. FOR FUN NIGHTS IN AND OUT.

Letter's from Members

Dear Kevin,

I will be coming to the Spring AGM. and I look forward to meeting you once again. I am looking forward to the new eel season and catching a big eel, possibly a P.B. that is if my Dad can net it. Hopefully everyone will catch a good eel including Amanda.

Tight lines.

Karl Richardson.

P.S. I hope to beat my Dad's best eel.

Dear Kevin,

Enclosed is a few snaps of eels for the album, these are all I have, but as I promised I will take photo's of all eels from now on. I am going to have a good bash at Rocla Lake in Linear Fisheries Waters this coming season. I think it could produce some surprises.

I will have a good try at the AGM of my club, to see if I can get an eel fish-in for the NAC - this water will produce good eels, this I know and can guarantee quality eels. I will let you know the outcome.

I have included a bait mixture which I have caught many eels with.

3 cans of pilchards in brine - strain off juice.

Add 30mls Olive oil, blend in with pilchards.

Add 5mls of Liveroil, blend all together and strain through a filter, bottle the mixture and store in a cool place.

It stinks to high heaven but is lethal for eels either injected, used with fishmeal groundbait or just dip lobworms in it. Try it you won't be sorry. I will get back to you when I am out of hospital. Good luck with the club's fish-ins and don't forget to try my special.

Tight lines.

Steve Mahoney.

The National Anguilla Club



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Eel Angling Specialists

DESIGNED, PRINTED AND PRODUCED BY DAVE BOARD FOR
THE NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB.



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