



The National Anguilla Club

BULLETIN

VOLUME 13.

ISSUE 6.

THE NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB.

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EDITORIAL.A.J.SUTTON.

Editorially, I am, I suppose, what one might be justified in calling 'a dead loss'. Nevertheless, you will have to put up with me for at least the time being, and I do apologise in advance for having 'done my best'.

I have pulled out all the stops. In organ playing terms that means playing every pitch on the organ both above and below the fundamental pitch, in order, mainly, to create as loud a racket as one can.

I have pulled all the stops on this occasion in order to get this Bulletin and other items to you without delay. I do not wish to create a loud noise, but I DO think it important that the members see some regularity as far as Club material is concerned. Of course, I can make a loud noise when it seems justified, and in due course I may create like hell if the expected articles for the Bulletin do not arrive. I'll not badger you too much on this occasion, as it may well be that some of you are already busy with the pen.

It must be said that I do not intend to act as EDITOR for too long. Come the Annual General Meeting, and you will have to find an Editor to replace D.G.Smith. Volunteers are always better than pressed men, and it may be that among you there are a couple of budding Editors who feel that you can do the job. A typewriter is very necessary, plus a few spare evenings each month and an understanding woman (or parent, as the case may be). But it is a very satisfying job - as long as one is not forever worrying about where the next lot of material is to come from! Do give the matter a little thought. I don't think that one needs to be a literary genius, but at the same time the standard, in a literary sense, of our Bulletin has always been reasonable.

I must thank all those among you who have ALREADY written offering what help you can. I do very much appreciate same, and I'm sure the Club thanks you too. Yet you will appreciate that it is hardly worth while doing the job in an unofficial, half hearted manner. That is why I have told your CHAIRMAN that I will carry on, as best I can, for the time being acting as Editor. A reminder, then, that all items for the Bulletin be sent direct to me until further notice.

The letter from the Thames Water Authority serves, in no small way, to teach us that in future we must keep abreast of ALL that is happening in the angling world - whether or not it be directly or indirectly concerned with the actual fishing. The TWA thing has crept by under our very noses without hardly a squeak from the NAC. Admitted, we were busily engaged with the Anglian Water Authority, but we are now in the position of having to 'toe the line' as far as the TWA bye laws are concerned. I have objected, but that is about as far as it can go, with things already having been decided. The lesson is, that it is not just up to me, not just up to your Chairman, but UP TO YOU ALL as members to see that nothing gets by without our being aware of it. DON'T be afraid, at any time, to bring matters to our notice. Once we know about these things there is often very much which can be done - but we must know in time to act. You'll not forget, will you?

I am showing no favours in mentioning the article by Kevin Richmond. I do think that you will enjoy his article 'Light Line Angling For Eels' as much as I did. I have read and re-read it time and time again. I offer Kevin my congratulations on a well written and thought provoking article, the subject matter of which we surely cannot ignore. It may well be that next season we will have to embark on an official 'light lining' programme as part of Club activity - if only to stop those like myself who would say "Kevin, my friend, 'ONE OF THESE DAYS' but you know the rest, don't you.

Do read Kevins article thoroughly. Maybe it will give you ideas to try when out angling. Maybe it will spur you on to that article you want to write.

Arthur J.Sutton.

BRIAN CRAWFORD

As a democratic Club, all members are free to say what they wish in criticism, however as Dave Smith said in his farewell Editorial, 'Those who do not attend the AGM forfeit the right to criticise on the grounds of default'. Thank you Dave, for that is my feelings also. The Club gets what it asks for. The elected officers can only guide the Club along lines put forward at AGMs, as it is here and only here that fundamental changes can take place. Neither Alan Hawkins nor John Watson were at the last AGM, indeed so concerned with the Club was John that he was piking in Lincolnshire instead. He did in fact turn up just as everyone was leaving.

However, their right to criticise apart, the facts are that they now have. I have waited to see what the initial response was, quietly sharpening my knives meanwhile. As an Anguilla Club Member for 8 years now, the Club is a way of life for me following 4 years as Membership Secretary and 2 as Chairman. Following the enormous amount of time and effort I have donated on the administrative side of the Club, I feel qualified to dispel a few myths that appear to have grown around certain members.

From the special letters, I gather that the two main criticisms are a decline in standards of eel angling and a move towards a more socially based Club. Correction of these two points can only be made by positive resolutions at AGM, so I hope all members will consider all letters and attend the AGM with a firm idea of how the Club should develop over the coming years.

I have rather a lot I wish to say on several points and items raised in the letters, so please excuse me if I occasionally go off on a side track.

Over the past 10 years I have been involved in many different committies, in many different positions and therefore feel qualified to speak with some authority on their set up and duties. The main positions and functions are as follows:

President: Senior Club member and past senior administrative official. The President does not actually take an active part in Club administration but acts more as advisor to other officials and often represents the Club at functions. He can if he so wishes attend all Committee meetings and take an active part in formulating Club policy to present to an AGM for adoption. In some Clubs, the President chairs General Meetings.

Chairman: Senior Club member, chairs all Club and Committee meetings. Official Club spokesman, senior representative. In most clubs that is all. In the NAC, the Chairman also has carried out the annual report analysis, but this is not really a condition of the position, just a carry over from the omnipotence of previous Chairman who have tended to have to perform almost all functions in the Club due to general member apathy. Also because a detailed analysis ability requires a reasonable mathematics ability plus about 100 free hours per year.

Secretary: Senior Club member, attends to all Club administrative duties. Ensures that all sections of the Club are functioning correctly and if not, attending to it. I have been Secretary to Peterborough Rugby Club for the past 3 years so understand all the many sides of the responsibility of the position. Peterborough is not a third class rugby club. We have over 300 members, half of which are players. We run six senior teams, two colts (under 19) two mini rugby (under 14 and under 11) teams, have four full size pitches, a £35000 clubhouse, £45000 pavilion with eight changing rooms, a dining room, kitchen and many other facilities, in fact one of the best in the midlands.

The Club has an annual turnover of over £25000 and due to its size and weekly match commitments requires a good administrative organisation.

There are 35 officers of the Club, forming an Executive or General Management Committee and four other Committees to cater for Membership, Social and Fund Raising activities, Bar and Clubhouse, and a Playing Committee. As Secretary, it is my function to see all sections operate efficiently. I attend monthly meetings, take minutes, type, duplicate and circulate these two weeks prior to the next meeting. I publish a monthly newsletter called CROSSBAR, distributing 150 copies. I also have a vast amount of work to do for our AGM and publication of a 28 page fixture book.

Notwithstanding all this, I still put the Anguilla Club before all else, but give this information to demonstrate my sympathy for the effort put in by Arthur and also to illustrate what I expect of him.

By comparison with other clubs, for example the NASG, their Secretary, Alan Otter, runs the Association, as did Eric Hodson before him. When there was that power struggle within the NASG a few years back, it was not for Chairman, but for Secretary, as the Secretary is the cornerstone of any club or association. With respect for the present NASG Chairman, Gordon Aflick, who I know very well having served on the NASG Executive Committee for the past two years as a Midlands Representative and also as Chairman of a sub-committee they set up to promote Junior Specimen Groups, I must admit he is very much a behind the scenes man. He chairs Committees and General Meetings and performed at the last Conference, but as I said before, Alan Otter is the NASG.

Treasurer: Senior Club member, attends to all Club financial duties. For our Club, mainly concerned with the collection of subscriptions, paying subscriptions to the NASG, etc., and paying officers expenses. Providing a typed or written statement of Club accounts at AGMs and an interim one at Spring Meetings. This is a fairly easy position in our Club and well carried out by all previous and present Treasurers. In a Club such as my rugby club, it is the most vital and therefore we have been lucky to have an assistant bank manager to perform the required duties in a most professional manner.

Membership Secretary: Senior Club member, attends to all membership applications, performance reviews, and keeping Club membership records. This also is not a very difficult job although a vital one. Duplicated literature and application forms are available for the Membership Secretary to send out to applicants who's completed and returned form is then sent round the Committee for their opinions as to the applicants suitability for consideration as a provisional member. This is repeated after a year or a full seasons eel angling to assess the contribution towards the Club. Again, this is repeated for each member every three years to try to ensure all members are achieving the required standard of effort. This seems to be in need of revision and a new set of standards set up. I would be very interested for members to write either direct or via the Bulletin just what standards they would set as a required norm. At least 1 4lb plus eel per three year period? At least 10 3lb plus eels per three year period? An average of 1000 Rod Hours per year over three years? At least 6 articles in the Bulletin per three year period? Compulsory completion of all questionnaires sent out and compulsory requirement to participate in all projects decided by AGMs such as on groundbaiting, terminal tackle trials, line strengths, etc., and many other variables. Actually I am serious in these proposals as if we do sincerely wish to be considered the eel Club to belong to, membership should be very difficult to obtain in the first place, and a fight to keep once achieved. A failure to obtain any of the requirements could be a relegation for a season to provisional membership, and if not achieved for a second season, expulsion.

We also need a set requirement for an entry standard. At present these are simply an age over 18 and a demonstrated interest in eels and a promise to participate in the Club's reporting scheme.

If we wish to make entry harder to achieve what barrier do we consider suitable? At least 3 years record of successful eel angling, i.e., a prospective applicant has to be an established and recognised eel angler. That is, he should be able to demonstrate an ability to achieve the requirements set out by our three yearly norm, if something of this type is accepted. Again, your views on this are important.

I guess you should all realise that no member can say he qualifies for either the above conditions of entry or continued membership. I also expect that if similar conditions are accepted then several members will leave. The Club will obtain a 'new look', slimmer, more vital approach to eel angling. Members will have to carefully consider their methods of eel angling which will have to be viewed in a totally different light. As Dave Smith said, eel angling can be very hard work.

Incidentally, the Club has just received an application from Ian Mann who captured that '8lb' eel last season and has had further success this year. In his letter to me he confesses a real dedication to eels. Under normal application considerations he would be offered a years provisional membership. Why not? he qualifies even under the proposed requirement. Therefore we cannot do anything other than make him an offer, can we?

What if John Sidley were to apply, without question he is the most successful eel angler in the country at this time and the most consistent. Indeed, should we write inviting him to apply? Also what of Alan Dart, the eel record holder who has also several 6lb plus eels to his credit and from several long chats to him, as he is also on the NASG Executive Committee he is a very dedicated and capable big eel angler. I have the impression he would like to join the Club, but does not like to ask for fear of misinterpretations of his intentions and also because of previous conflict with members on occasions such as the time Alan Hawkins and Dave Ball heckled and interrupted a talk he gave on eels at a past NASG AGM where they also produced a 3lb eel from a bin and TOLD Alan Dart that THIS is what an eel is. This action of course led to the Chairman of the NASG at this year's Conference when introducing Alan Hawkins' paper was very nervous saying 'one never knows what to expect from the NAC except the unexpected'.

I digress, again. I would like a resolution passed at an AGM that we do not in fact invite anyone to be a member. If an angler wishes to join us he has to apply and fulfil all conditions. By becoming a much more well-publicised Club (through official channels) and demonstrating our norms, to be accepted as a successful eel angler, one HAS to be a member of the NAC. Through the 'Ripples' column of 'Angling' magazine, where Clubs give their news, we can and should publicise our intentions and future achievements. Only by GOOD and favourable publicity will established eel anglers feel the need to apply.

Editor: Senior Club member as the Editor is also ex-officio on the Club Committee. A very difficult position at times due to a lack of cooperation from members in the supply of material. Therefore any condition of membership should include an undertaking to supply say six items per three year review period. The requirements of an editor is to be able to type articles out following the established pattern in previous years. Each year forming a separate volume and hopefully each month, a separate issue. The Editorial may consist of the Editors views of the contents or comments thereon. Alternately, the Editor can invite a member to write an Editorial in a guest position. I do believe that we should have a Bulletin every

month, even if only a front cover and Editorial. The routine is very important as it is so easy for the Editor to wait a month or two or three etc., waiting for enough material to make a large issue, and also so and so said he will send me an article in a day or so attitude. The Editor should also keep a record of who has sent in what and perhaps a list published each year so a comparison of effort is observed. He should also write to various members geeing them up, especially those who he knows have something definite to report, whether on a notable catch, big eel water or a report of a Club or local group trip. Most important, as had been commented on several times, do write in answer to articles, either in support or opposition. I am sure you can donate one evening a couple of times a year to writing for the Club in response to the one or two hundred hours put in on your behalf by your Committee. If you want a good Club, and it seems you do, then _ _ _ _ _ put in some effort to achieve it.

Right lads, so far I have tried to outline the workings of the Committee. They are there to carry out mandates made by you at AGMs. Your decisions. I expect to see all members at the AGM in November. Those who do not attend, without good reason, will know what the rest of the members think. Expense is no excuse. We have good groups in the South, South West, North West and North East as well as the London area. Indeed this has been Club policy to gradually establish local groups in set areas. Now you can 'club' together on transport. A Club reformation is now an accepted fact. Next year will be the first of the 'New Club'. If you are still interested in being a member of what we hope will be a very successful big eel angling club, you had better attend or send Arthur your intention to resign now. At the AGM the then elected Committee will go away with a complete portfolio of terms of reference for membership reorganisation, and each Committee member will know what is expected of him as should each member. There will be no room in the Club for riders only. It will be hard graft all the way. Sufficient members have indicated that this is what they want, let us see if they act as well as they speak.

I would like now to comment on the many points raised in criticisms of the Club in the 'Special Publications'. I will do them in order.

John Watson goes on about a decline in eel capture achievements. Unfortunately John falls into the trap of only comparing two years. A complete picture is only obtained from a total appraisal of all results during the Club' history. The 1975 Report, published in Vol.13, issue 3, page 30 gives the picture from 1969 to 1975, although years 1967 and 1968 can also be included by reading the 1970 Report reprinted 1975 and issued at the 1975 Spring Meeting.

Considering 4lb+eels only we see the following.

1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	(so far)
3	5	9	5	11	9	15	11	16	15	(to July)

Considering 5lb+ eels only.

1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	(SO FAR TO JULY)
1	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	4	5	

Considering 2lb+ eels.

1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	(So far to July)
42	56	63	64	112	95	115	165	137	N/A	(not available yet but from letters received are very good)

Numbers of members reporting each year.

1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
19	22	26	20	24	18	19	30	30	N/A

By comparison of the 21b+ eel situation year by year we observe a very dramatic improvement from 42 with 19 members in 1967 to a peak of 165 with 30 members in 1974 and a drop of 28 21b+ eels the following year, also with 30 members as pointed out by John Watson. However he appears to have missed the point explained in my 1975 Report that as Abberton was fished very little by Terry Jefferson and Chris Davy in 1975 they only caught 4 21b+ eels, however they did fish Abberton a good deal in 1974 and caught 26 21b+ eels, so John it looks like it is their fault for not fishing Abberton seeing that we dropped 28 21b+ eels from 1974 to 1975.

Looking at the above tables, although taken out of text, there is still no doubt in my mind that the Club's successes are gradually increasing. 1976 looks like being the best ever in terms of actual eels caught and not at this stage considering the rod hours per eel etc. I also expect there to be more than 30 members reporting. Since 1967 the Club has grown by about 50% ie., from about 20 members reporting to about 30, however the facts - the results John, demonstrate that I have been correct in saying the Club is more successful as an eel angling Club.

A more accurate assessment of the development of the Club and its members is given in the tables of the Performances of Individual Members in 1973 when the table was first published, 1974 and 1975, and especially by comparison of the 21b+ eels columns. These show real eel angling attainment over the past 3 years and just who would qualify if my proposed conditions of membership would apply.

	21b+ EELS	1973 + 1974 + 1975
is., Crawford; total		15.
Davy	"	37.
Jefferson	"	64.
Goldsmith	"	11.
Grey	"	21. Resigned
Orme	"	24.
Hawkins	"	32.
Sutton	"	42.
Watson	"	47.
Vandercruysen	"	15.
A. Smith.	"	10.
D. Smith	"	28.
Hope	"	41.
Hansen	"	22.
Ball	"	24. Resigned
Bowyer	"	11. Resigned
Billington	"	21.

I hope the above figures are correct and I have tried to count carefully and I apologise if I have missed out anyone who also fished for the three years. It appears that Myself, Arthur Smith and Richard Goldsmith had better watch our step if we wish to be considered as members in future.

Actually in my own case as members know, I have tended to concentrate on low rate of catch waters but with good prospects and experimented with various rigs and baits. In fact over the three years I caught only 45 eels, but $\frac{1}{3}$ of these was over 21b. Excuses cannot produce eels though so I must change my ways.

John also claimed that the Club had lost two of our best members in Ball and Bowyer, with all respect I feel the Club has not even noticed they are no longer present as their contribution was minimal apart from the riasco

when Dave Ball was acting Secretary when in fact he was almost responsible for the total collapse of the Club. Chris was a nice lad to chat to and fish with but made only an average effort in Club affairs. Neither made any contribution in their last year with the Club. If our selection procedure was infallible they would both possibly have been weeded out several seasons ago. The only real contribution I can remember Dave Ball making in his 7 years was the organisation of the 1973 Whit Trip to the Grand Union Canal which turned out to be a very boozy affair with the members strung out along several miles of bank and meeting at the pub.

As far as John's comments regarding members tackle and techniques go, I must ask him when did he last have a good chat to new members and discuss these items? A lot of members seem to have a lot to say about the way other members fish, except in the right place, that is in the Bulletin and on the bank. The idea of Arthur's, to hold daily forums on trips to pool results and knowledge is an excellent idea, I am sure members can stay awake and away from the pub long enough each day to participate in the accumulation of relevant information as to obtaining bites and turning bites into landed eels. I hope this is a feature of the coming Bra Trip and will organise it as a daily event with the cooperation of Arthur at 10.30am each morning, unless an alternative better time is agreed, at my pitch of course. In Bra Lake, the Club has its best prospects ever of really making a name for itself with big eels. If I were able to hit all the bites I get, or turn these into eels on the bank I would be out of this world. I have hit and lost far too many really big eels for comfort. I most of all would welcome constructive criticism of my approach.

I am sorry John passed comment from information received on hearsay concerning the NASG Conference. As he was not there he must be unable to form an unbiased opinion of the events which ensued there. As this item has also received unfavourable comment from Alan Hawkins in his letter, I will put forward my opinion of the matter at this time.

The members attending were myself, Bob Pountney, Terry Jefferson, Arthur Sutton, Alan Hawkins, Dave Smith, Ernie Orme, Ken Goward, Arthur Smith, H.Hansen (for the Saturday only) Graham Booth, Dick Hudson, Steve Radford (for the Saturday only). Dave Ball and Dave Marlborough, past members were also part of the party - for the Friday evening at least.

So 13 members, just under $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Club was present, 11 on the Friday.

On the Friday, we were all assembled by about tea time (actually about 7pm.) We had all attended the registration, inspected our sumptuous accommodation and decided to inspect the bar. There we found a very convenient alcove which just fitted our party and proceeded to inspect the beer stocks. As it happened, one or two jokes were passed around as is the wont of a group of chaps having a drink. We were also joined from time to time by members of other groups who knew a fresh joke or blue story as would be more appropriate, on this evening Alan Hawkins and Dave Ball who joined us a little late, were situated amongst our midst and appeared to participate in the proceedings. At about 10.15, alarm and despondency spread through the now very packed large bar when news filtered through that the bar would close at 10.30. Members of the NASG Executive however took the initiative by announcing the formation of a beer kitty at £1.00 per head the beer bought to be consumed at a gathering of contributors in one of the accommodation social areas. Now the accommodation was consisting of several two story blocks of flats set out in groups of two sets of 4 flats, 4 on the ground floor and 4 on the first floor, the first floor flats were separated by a form of social area with facilities for making tea or coffee which were provided plus a small stove if cooking was required. Several lounge chairs and tables were also provided. These areas were obviously intended for a maximum of about 12 persons.

The NASG Executive, Alan Otter, Gordon Afflick, Eric Wainwright, etc., had set up their beer garden in one of these, I forget exactly which... I seem to remember counting about 40 odd bodies grabbing for fastly disappearing bottles of beer from a stack of crates. There was little room at first to do anything but drink beer but gradually as all the beer disappeared, the room began to thin out a little as jokes and stories were once more brought out into the open and Dave Ball produced several bottles of beer he had hidden in the oven - useful lad Dave, very resourceful. I then indulged in a discussion with him on the tenching and carp prospects of one of my local waters. During this I gradually became aware that some of the lads were attempting to vary the proceedings with a little musical renditions, ie., singing dirty songs, being something of a connoisseur in such matters after playing rugby for over 23 years, even though I cannot sing. In my drink soddened mind I thought I had better show the lads the way. This I did, for several action orientated songs. It received a fair laugh anyway and as the party was now breaking up, we all decided to end our merrymaking and wend our weary but happy way to bed.

NOTE. At this stage Alan Hawkins nor Arthur nor anyone else mentioned to me the possibility that we were doing the Club an injustice, I did not observe anyone who was not enjoying himself. On returning to my own flat's social area, I found about 12 lads having a good discussion including members of the Leicester Specimen Group (Soar Valley), we proceed to have a fair chat the details of which now escape me but I do remember it had its serious moments. I think we all eventually got to bed at about 2am.

On the Saturday, the Conference proper began with some very good and well presented paners. Our Club had a large and detailed display of tackle and factual information. The record eel was also on display with the Bristol Specimen Group's section. Alan Hawkins had brought Nigel Frostwick's 8:7 eel also for display. This together with Alan's paper which was very well received being our contribution to the Conference as agreed at the NASG Executive meetings that I attended prior to the Conference. The possibility of an eel forum was mentioned but no firm decision made.

An account of the Conference will not be complete without reference to a gem which occurred during the lunch break on the Saturday. Most of our members were gathered in our social area and just happened to be discussing qualifying weights for the ABU medal scheme, when totally out of the blue so to speak, Arthur Sutton said 'I once saw a 12" durex floating down the River Lea'. The members present will remember the significance of this remark in the light of later events as I composed a song around it.

Later that evening after dinner at about 7pm, our members met once more at the Conference Hall foyer to discuss plans for the evening. After a chat, it was generally agreed that as there was nothing definite about the provision of an eel forum or that anyone had seen a room allocated, we should all return to the bar for a further inspection and would hold an eel forum there, in our alcove if one was required. Mistake number 1 .. or was this 2 Alan ... The point here was that as I had never attended a previous Conference except for one day, I had no idea of the set up for forums. The NASG were apparantly not too interested if one was held. Also Alan Hawkins, Arthur Sutton and other members attending this Conference, who had attended previous Conferences, gave no advice or help on this matter, in fact as far as Alan Hawkins was concerned, he had done his bit in presenting his paper and we never saw him again until much later in the evening as he was sat apart all the time with Dave Ball. As a senior member, it was just as much his duty then to have a word or two rather than sit back and watch events develop as they did. From the way he has attacked what went on later that evening, he must have been sitting and watching, rubbing his hands with glee, rather than the hypocritical sadness and despondency he professed in his 'letter'. This is the point

that annoys me. I am a very sensible and responsible person when the conditions require it. On this occasion I was following the mood of the members as the intention was to make the Conference into a social success. Unfortunately one of Alan's shortcomings has always been his inability to communicate to members and aloofness as typified by his antisocial campaign of late. His attitude at the Conference appears to be that of a doctor sitting watching a patient die while he has the cure in his hand. In my mind, his was the greatest crime, if as he states, a crime was committed.

As I understand, after returning home, he sent Arthur a letter of resignation due to the 'unacceptable behaviour of members led by myself of course, at the Conference' and rang up several other members including John Watson to add more salt as I received several objectional letters from John as a result. Thanks John.

To return to the Saturday evening in the bar. The happy feeling was still evident from the previous evening and large quantities of beer was consumed. Jokes and tales were passed around and as the evening progressed songs were sung. Apart from the Durex song, I had also composed two other songs extolling the virtues of the Anguilla Club which appeared to go down very well in our corner. As the bar was crowded, no one else was taking any notice of our little gathering or could even possibly hear us. We were prepared for the bar closing this time taking a couple of crates up to our own Club party in our social area where we continued until about 1am, I think. We received no comments or complaints from anyone at anytime. After leaving the gathering, I returned to my own flat which was in the next block to find my central social area occupied by the Leicester Specimen group with several other individuals including Neville Flickling. For the next two hours we carried on a very interested and informative discussion - dare I say forum - on eel angling. I made several good friends on that occasion and believed I did the Club quite a bit of good.

On the last day I was surprised to find Alan very distant and sat with Dave Ball well away from the rest of us for the remainder of the Papers. At the end of the Conference, I gave him a hand to pack his gear away, but still no word from him at all. I returned home a little puzzled but with a happy feeling that the Club had at last had a social gathering. The first in its history. NOW - dirty deeds.

I make no excuses for my attitude. I have still to see evidence that I or other members damaged the Club's reputation despite what Alan and John think or say. I will continue with my attitude until evidence is produced.

As a postscript to these events, I attended the NASG AGM in May. I was the only Club representative there and was deeply ashamed to be so. We have about 35 affiliated members, you all pay your £1.50. The Bristol Specimen Group was there in force as was many other groups. I made a point of seeking opinions concerning our activities at the Conference but all I got was "what a great weekend" I lunched with Alan Otter and most of the other executive members and they all agreed what a great social success the weekend was, and now gentlemen, comes the crunch. The proceedings for the next Conference were provisionally discussed and whether to hold the Conference at the same location or not or to have it for one day or two was part of this. The result was overwhelmingly in favour of holding it again in Nottingham over two days, and the reason given by all attending members was the superior social facilities available there for parties and other activities in the evening. Alan Otter gave a brief account of the activities of the Executive in the evenings when they made rather a name for themselves in certain Nottingham night spots. Need I say I could have joined them, and would, if other members of the Anguilla Club were not present. As it was I enjoyed the company of our members.

Another point I wish to make is the question of damage to the Club's reputation by social behaviour. We are judged by the eels we catch and what is written in the paper about our eeling achievements. What we do in pubs or clubs etc., bears no relevance at all to our stature. As a fair example, take the Northampton Specimen Group. They have one or two reasonable members as far as angling ability goes, I think you will agree. Now, I have never been fortunate to receive an invitation to one of their Annual Stag Nites, as attendance is by invitation only, but they do have rather a rare reputation which make our episode at the Conference look something like a primary school party. I have been told (hearsay again) some of the events which take place, very interesting. I have still to observe damage to their reputation which receives very favourable press publicity and a list of those attending reads like Who's Who.

Now I don't feel we desire quite that sort of scene, and could not anyway as we are too spread out but I do feel to be a successful and contented Club with a one for all and all for one attitude as regards sharing eel data, we must be able to sit down and be able to chat with each other. At the moment the Club is half dead socially. By this I mean that very few members could just go and have a serious chat about eel angling with any of our members. They appear to have a social block and an inability to communicate with anyone whom they consider to be on a lower level, either socially or equipment-wise or on eel reputation.

I tend to get the impression that to be accepted in the Club one has to be fairly proficient at darts, accepted that is socially.

Well the Club, or a third of it at least has had its big social occasion. It has gone, past, and is done with. I hope so, as we now have to consider its implications. Do we want a reoccurrence at the next Conference? If not, what do we do to prevent it? Stop members attending? Stop members drinking? Stop members telling jokes or blue stories? Stop members singing blue songs? Give a mandate for 'decent behaviour'? Ok lads, I promise here and now that I will not sing or tell jokes ect., but I am afraid I will be unable to stop myself having a laugh. I will be going though, in what capacity I don't know, but I will be there. You have been warned.

Incidentally, at the NASG AGM I had a chat to Alan Otter about the Conference for 1978 and suggested we might run the raffle as another group did this year. We could also donate a few prizes if agreeable. We do not have to make a firm offer this year but can keep it in mind.

Having replied to a few of the criticisms in Alan's letter I will carry onto another topic covered by him, that of members choosing the nearest swim to the car and making themselves very comfortable with little regard to the eeling potential. I suspect Alan was again having a go at the swims I chose at Bra Lake and the fact I get myself as comfortable as is possible. Unfortunately I was fortunate to set up my 'supercamp' in a swim that produced a 4:1 eel. The other 'superswim' I fished last season also produced an eel or 4:2.

The sad story is that actually Alan and one or two other members are to blame for my degeneracy. When I joined the Club many moons ago and attended my first Club trip, a weeks session to Castle Howard in Yorkshire, I arrived there in my battered minivan with a brolly, basket, sleeping bag and a couple of rods. No brolly tent, bite alarms, bed chairs etc., in fact, quite the little eel angler that looked nothing like an eel angler - I had none of the visible gear. Remember this was in 1969 - the good old days. However, the first night saw me sat on my basket as was my wont, two rods out with silver paper indicators. Alan Hawkins, Arthur Smith and Chris Bowyer were also there that night. I had 4 runs, caught 4 eels. They caught 3 between them, missing several runs with their brolly tents, bed chairs, multiple rods and bite alarms of fascinating construction.

That week as may be read in the report on the trip, about 20 members attended, 60 eels were caught, of which I caught 16. However, happy to say, my 'education' had begun. By the end of the week I had scrounged some plastic sheeting, constructed a broolly tent - just like the 'experts' and fashioned a form of bite alarm so that I could have a nap at night.

I am not slow in learning, as time passed I got more and more gear together indeed for several years it seems there is a competition as to who can set up the most complicated and cosy camp. Ernie had a grand one at Barton with his carpet and arm chair, but I think during the past year or two I have set a standard which will be rarely surpassed. Have I won at last???

My first trip saw me with a small camping stove, but seeing Alan's fine double burner and grill plus ala carte cooking in his pressure cooker drove me onto greater desires. The Whit Trip at Bra demonstrated one of the ultimate pogs. And still I caught a 4:1 eel. I am sorry about that as it now spoils things as it looks like having won - I lose.

Comfort in eel angling will now be on a points system. Up to a certain standard, ie., bed chair, broolly, small stove perhaps, zero points. Any item extra to this that may be construed non-essential incurs one point for each item. When a total of ten points are reached, the member is relegated to provisional member status.

To return to reason, when I was in Sussex and travelled 60 miles return to fish Whyke lake each week for two seasons, my nearest water of any potential in those days, I was faced with a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile walk round to the rear of the lake to a swim I rancied. Therefore my gear was restricted to none but essential items. Unfortunately I was only rewarded with three runs leading to three eels. However at Bra Lake I feel I have a choice of very good swims, some near the car and some involving a walk of a couple of hundred yards. The fact is that one of the easiest swims has produced the best eel for the water, one of 5:8. However due to the whit trip, it is obvious that eels are found in all swims provided a little searching is carried out. I use 4 rods, all at different depths and distances and usually one is successful I still have a lot to learn from the water though.

The question is, is comfort or the lack of it important to the catching of eels? My answer is that it is detrimental. On several occasions I have had a bite when asleep and struck too soon in my state of half awake. Before I joined the Club I never slept, I am trying to get out of the habit now.

The rest of Alan's letter requires little comment. He had the right idea. The Club needs to change to be more successful. It will change as from the coming AGM.

Turning to the letters in the second 'Special Publication' I agree with most that is said here and delighted it has come from the members and not just the Committee. The Club has been successful, is successful, but can only continue being successful by a tightening of the reins. A greater contribution from members is required. Bob Croxall says not enough analysis is being done on session reports. Fair enough, I have time only for the analysis I do at the moment involving about 4 weeks holiday per year plus many evenings. I have all session reports from 1974, who would like to take one years reports and analyse them for me? Who indeed? There are questions I would like to ask also but so far having already asked them several times have received no answer, such as what happened to the otolith reading and growth rate studies and Water Questionnaire scheme which are in the hands of Alan but of which there has been no news since he resigned as Chairman in 1974. I have had no cooperation at all from him in this respect.

Bob Coxall also makes the point concerning conservation, something I have aimed at since my election as Chairman. Almost all eels I have seen caught by members up until that time were killed. The saddest sight was a row of dead fine eels at Bala in 1974. Now I am really happy to say, few eels are killed by members. I believe we must put a ban on bins and plastic bags to contain our eels. I ask you all to use a keep net. When we fish enclosed waters it is sheer stupidity to kill off our future sport. The eels may migrate at some future date. By tagging eels we may be able to learn if this is so. We need to tag eels of all sizes really, to learn more for the future.

In a form of conclusion to this long reply to your letters, I have to recount a little of Club history to point out a few more lessons to be learnt.

When the Club started in 1964, it was mainly centred round London and was just a gathering of chaps interested in fishing for eels and a sort of circular letter was passed round that members contributed to. Rather a casual Club. Then Terry Coulson hit the scene, in a quick power take over he became Chairman and proceeded to reorganise the Club and set a standard for future years. Terry was a good Chairman and organiser. Unfortunately ~~he~~ was also unable to communicate with the average member who was never quite on his wavelength. He was a boss man, the Club was made up of yes men, and everything had to be run according to the Coulson plan. Unfortunately also, despite his well meaning and grand plans for a vigorous and scientific Club with a monthly Newsletter and Bulletin and gigantic annual Reports, he was unable to be matched with suitable administrative assistants. As Arthur said, he and Terry never hit it off which was quite true. Terry was an absolute dictator at times, never really hitting it off with members and having served under him for two years saw his destruction self imposed. When Arthur left in 1969, he had already been replaced by Dennis Ecob who proceeded to set the Club administrative system into a state of chaos before he left handing over to Dave Ball who made even less of a job. Then Geoff Swailes was appointed General Secretary and myself Membership Secretary and the situation was sorted out. The damage had been done. During the confusion, Terry was trying to do his mammoth analysis work, produce monthly Bulletins, Monthly Newsletters and attend to general correspondence, something had to give and it did. In 1972 ~~he~~ resigned as Chairman and was elected president but declined to accept the position and that was more or less the last we heard from him although I dropped him a line from time to time. Alan was elected as Chairman and as Geoff had emigrated to New Zealand, Arthur came back to a unanimous vote as Secretary. He had already been a member for a year. Alan now however had quite a handful, Previous experiences as a member of the Committee and Editor bore him well, together with his scientific education. He was quick to realise the work involved in the Club Reporting system and in his second year set up the system of regional reporting officers to do the bulk of the onerous analysis duties, several members analysing the results for five or six others instead of the Chairman doing them all. The final analysis however saw the Chairman with still a lot of work to do as I also have found out. Alan, as Terry before him found the demands of the job too much for his time available, especially as his wife was to present him with twins. Alan resigned in 1974 and I was elected his successor. Alan was lucky, On his election to the Chair, Terry left the scene to him and therefore was free to develop the Club his way. I have not been so lucky, but did not mind as I thought Alan would assist me with constructive advice. This again he did not do and took no active part in Club policy. So I carried on as Chairman the way I could see it required to develop. In passing I might just mention the attendance at meetings. Attendance was never a strong point but during the latter part of Terry's reign and throughout Alan's attendance dropped gradually but surely, culminating in the 1974 AGM when Alan resigned with only 14 members present - less than half the Club.

With the Club enthusiasm at its lowest ebb ever I decided that a new and less rigorous approach was required to get the members back with interest. The facts speak for themselves, despite a break in Club administration in 1975 due to Arthur's illnesses and a lack of reporting forms, for the first year ever the Club had a Bulletin and a Newsletter each month. Attendance at trips and Meetings shot up and it was very gratifying to receive all your letters of pleasure with the way the atmosphere had changed. The Report was issued very late in 1975 due solely to Dave Ball not sending in his groups reports until July therefore little work could be done on them. I spent three weeks of my summer holiday working on presenting them as soon as I could.

I also have spent much time on work corresponding with Water Authorities regarding close season eel fishing and I feel there is still much to do.

Reading the Newsletters following the 1975 Spring Meeting and AGM, Arthur was well pleased with turnout and the proceedings and in his account of the 1976 Spring meeting was in raptures when 28 members attended. The 'new' additions to these meetings such as the Club raffle, sale of various items, etc., also, I believe assisted in making more of a day of it for those members travelling a long way. I feel members require more than just to receive a cold statistical diatribe in return for their journey of several hours. In this I appear to be correct.

Therefore gentlemen, I hope this little letter has not bored you. I have attempted to be honest, as this is the only way I can be. Any changes I have brought to the Club were with the best intentions. Arthur said I am too nice a chap to be Chairman and the Club requires a forceful Chairman. Well, I hope I have demonstrated I can be both. I manage to be both at school teaching jobs as a 'nice' teacher just would not survive. I have hesitated to be forceful in the past as I felt it would do no good. The Club required to develop into a true Club each member knowing the other.

Now the Club is a Club. From your letters you are mature and ready to take the next painful steps to ensure future growth.

I have endured several sleepless nights before sitting down to type this letter over 8 hours. I have said many things against a lot of members. All of which I believe to be true. As has been said by other members, "All I do is for the Club". I want the Club to be successful, to be great. I'm pleased we are going through a period of self examination, we needed it.

I also agree with Arthur that the Club does need a social atmosphere, as long as it is balanced that is. Without it we would not be a Club, just a cold, statistical, calculating machine.

Well lads, are you all going to attend the AGM and seriously discuss the points raised in the series of special letters? It is your Club, run the way YOU want it to be. I would still like to be part of it. If nominated and seconded would work harder than ever, forcefully too, to see the Club establish new standards of membership and eel angling results. I will do my bit, as in the past, will you do yours?

I look forward to a good turnout at Bra Lake in August. Incidentally Arthur, in naming Bra Lake so, it was initially because it is the shape of a Bra, cross my heart..

There are still several good eeling months left. I would be grateful if captors of 4lb+ eels can drop me a line giving the weight, month, bait, approx. location, and whether day or night. I hope to prepare further articles for the press when I return from my camping holiday in South Wales during the first two weeks of August.

TIGHT LINES

Mr P.Nunn. in reply to Special Publication.

I reply to the Special Publication of July. I feel, from reading the article, that it's about time I put pen to paper and not leave it entirely up to others.

I am still on my trial period for the N.A.C. and shall learn, at the end of the year, the decision of the Committee. I, like many others, try to do my best, but being a new applicant, I seem to have fallen down on the job. As so many members have said - we needed that kick up the behind to bring us round.

On the application form it said, I think, "each member is expected to help and to put his views and ask questions etc". And here am I, nearly a year later thinking to myself whats the point in putting my views, posing my problems etc as how on earth could anyone be interested in what I have to say. I wonder how many think like that at these times ?

The Club has done me a lot of good. Before I applied to join the Club I was a 'loner' as far as eel fishing went. Sure, I enjoyed catching eels, but my approach was to tie on a hook, put on a worm, sling it out and just wait. But that has changed now, I actually LOOK at the water, decide the best way to fish, and THEN make a start.

The N.A.C. has done that for me, and many others I shouldnt wonder, so it is time I and others did something for the Club. Get rid of the attitude "what can I do", as every little must help, no matter how small. Lastly, if I am made a FULL member I shall be proud to say that I am a member of the N.A.C. and what can I DO to make the Club proud of me. Tight Lines.

* * * * *

STEVE RADFORD.

Just a few comments on the points raised in the Special Publication. Please bear in mind that I have only been a provisional member of the Club for eight or nine months and am therefore in no position to say whether or not the Club is going downhill, and am certainly not criticising anything I have seen so far.

1/ SOCIAL EVENTS. I believe that these are a MUST for the Club, although I agree a balance must be maintained. Members must be able to meet, to fish, talk and put forward ideas and arguments etc. A Bulletin, even as good as this one, is,, on its own, hardly enough.

2/ BEING AN ALL ROUNDER. I believe this serves no useful purpose regarding eel fishing BUT showing an interest in other species and wild life in general MUST help especially if emphasis is placed on the type of things eels might feed on. I get great satisfaction from seeing and knowing a little of the wild life around me when I am out fishing. Past experience with other species has, I know, helped me to overcome some problems and pitfalls in eel fishing, but I do not feel it necessary to be an all rounder now.

3/ As far as whether members should fish for eels or BIG eels is concerned, I do not see it of any real relevance and it should, I think, be the choice of the individual, although I agree that given the right water if you fish for eels then the bigger ones should, to a large extent, look after themselves. For example, have you ever found that with three or four rods and some baited with big eels in mind that in fact the big eel falls to the least likely rod at the least likely time ?

4/ I do not think that we should close the door to new members as all that can achieve is to possibly lose some one who could be a real asset to the Club - BUT, by all means raise the standard of vetting if you want. (maybe I'll be thrown out then)

I think that constructive criticism of any members fishing is a good thing and I, for one, would welcome it from any N.A.C. member.

Well now, having thrown myself wide open I would like to squash any attempt to compare the N.A.C. with the B.C.S.G. for, believe me, having been a member of that lot you really have got a bloody long way to go to get THAT petty and secretive and have NO interest in the Club at all.

(STEVE RADFORD, from previous page)

Getting off that subject I would now like to ask members for comment regarding the use of dead baits.

ARE freshly killed baits better than frozen ones ?

HOW can I stop baits twisting back round my line when long range casting ?(diagrams please)

WHERE can I get some of this marvellous trace wire that Bob Jackson's mate said I was a bloody fool not to use ?

Well, that's it, said and questions asked. Hope you can understand me as I am not a literary genius, but you did say that it did not matter. All the best to all of you in all future fishing - and let's sock some big eels. Hope to see you soon.

P.S. Norris Shakspear do a good air pump and its cheap to run. Runs from two HP2 batteries continuously for up to 15 hours. £4 approx;

ERNIE ORME.

I've read and digested, and done my soul searching. Well, gentlemen, yes it did most certainly hurt. I guess I wasn't ready for it. However, I've bitten my tongue for long enough, I hope, have now got things in perspective. For my own peace of mind I owe it to the N.A.C. to try and say what I mean in reply to Alan and John's letters.

A lot of what was said was, I agree, necessary and constructive. Alas, some of it was DESTRUCTIVE criticism. Only time will tell. Now Alan, let us look back to the Angling Conference. Even before the start of the beer swilling and rude songs and the general annoyance we appear to have created, it is a great pity that you seem to have preferred the company of an ex member and a non member to our company.

However, having said that, I believe I know how hurt you felt Alan and I think I have known you long enough to say that I have always found you to be a good companion, a TRUE GENTLEMAN with great integrity - and I wish to apologise and say how profoundly sorry I am for any embarrassment I have caused you.

Now John, what a great pity you could not have turned up to more of our Annual General Meetings to say how you felt about things. Then, perhaps, we would not be in this present melancholy state we are now in. I must add that both you and Dave Ball had several chances to get on to our Committee to help shape the Club how you would have it be. Why for heavens sake did not you two extremely good anglers take the initiative and help to lead us. And John, your almost unforgiveable statement that 'an eel only man is a rough bastard'. My My John, how wrong you are.

I have chosen my sport, and that's eel fishing with rod and line. I may not be very successful at it, but how I enjoy it ! As for being an all rounder, hell John, I've been through the mill ! I do not like dislike Pike, I do not like pike fishing. I have never wanted to bore anyone with my love for winter chub fishing. I7 chub to 4½lbs in a three hour session on a little stretch of the river VRNWDY. Or my love for a couple of hours crucian carp fishing en routs to work on these lovely misty summer mornings. Eight beautiful crucians to 1½lbs in a session on a lovely little water I know.

No, I, like Tony Hollerbach, do not think that I have to be an all rounder. If the Club were to insist on this in their rules then I, like Tony, would have to leave the Club. And what a great pity that would be for me, to leave a Club that is my life and my love and has been for the past ten years now.

The harm we have inherited was self induced and, as our good companion Bob Jackson says, THE CURE IS SELF INDUCED TOO. Kevin Richmonds idea is an excellent one and I would support it 100%

What else is there to say except that I would like to see the younger element take a more active part in our Club and show us what they want for the future of the N.A.C. I too am guilty as anyone for slipping like we have and am truly sorry for falling down on my obligations to a great Club that has given me so much.

ERNIE ORME(continued from previous page)

For the sake of the GREAT ones, like the Coulsons, the Hawkins and the Suttons let's pull ourselves together. We CAN DO IT you know, can't we ?

When I said destructive criticism - prove me wrong.

Oh ! by the way gentlemen, if any of you feel that you like me well enough or know me well enough and you are ever near my home, please call and see this'eel only' rough bastard. Believe me, there will always be a warm welcome, a bottle of scotch a comfortable bed and a good breakfast waiting for you.

I do hope that we get where we want to go and be. Enjoy yourselves, and the VERY BEST OF EEL FISHING TO YOU ALL.

NOTE FROM SECRETARY.

Forgive me if I sound sentimental, but in the years I have known our ERNIE I have come to know him well and love him dearly for what he is - the true spirit of angling ! I know full well the torment he has been going through, although his letter tells but half of it. I VOW to do my part in never again allowing this internal self conflict to arise. We know what we have to do, and I think that it will be done. That much we certainly do owe to the Coulsons the Hawkins AND the ERNIE ORMEs.

LIGHT LINE ANGLING FOR EELS - A POSSIBILITY ? By Kevin Richmond.

Three occurrences during the last twelve months encouraged me to reconsider my angling tactics. First, the thought provoking article by Alan Hawkins"Thoughts on tackle Strength"(Bulletin vol I2 No 6) did a lot to allow comparisons between an older, more experienced members observations and my own results. Secondly, my previous years performance drew attention to the fact that rates of catch were markedly slower than in previous years - both overall and for larger eels. Thirdly, and of perhaps more importance, an incident occurring on the rugged shoreline of the North Devon coast.

During the summer of 1975 I broadened my angling experience to encompass shore angling for conger. First attempts proved only moderately successful-using a 3½lb stepped up pike rod and 18 lb line conger of up to 9:12 were beached after terrific fights of up to thirty minutes duration. Upon moving to extremely 'graunchy Hot spots' I began to hook eels which sorted me out in no uncertain manner-oten wrenching the rod down, snagging themselves instantly in the kelp and leaving me completely bewildered. Stepping up my tackle to a twelve feet beachcaster enabled me to conduct things on my own terms landing numerous double figure congers and having tremendous fun in the bargain.

This led me to thinking that if eels of this size could be landed on line of a breaking strain only 25% greater than the fish themselves from terrain far more rugged than any lake or river why was I fishing so haevily for Anguilla ?

The average size of the eels I catch range between one and three pounds and to set out after those with lines of twelve to fifteen pounds B.S. seems completely ridiculous. Therefore I vowed that 1976 would see me using lines of a greatly reduced breaking strain. The evidence that I had cast shadows of doubt as to whether eels hooked would either snap or bite through my nylon hooklength..

Tackle consists of two compound taper carp rods coupled with eight pound line(now reduced to six lb) with a six inch nylon trace of twelve pounds B.S. The tried and trusted method of using silver paper on the line was once again brought into use. It must be remembered however, that on such tackle eels have to be PLAYED - not hauled in. The bend of the rod is used to play the eel - a constant pressure tends to draw the eel to the surface while the clutch takes care of any sudden lunges by the eel. The following tables incorporate data for the seasons 1974,75,and 76. It must be remembered that the earlier two years were fished with conventional eel tackle I.E. stepped up rods and lines of 12 to 15 lbs, whilst the

present is fished 'light '.

TABLE I I.3 waters(tidal rivers)

	I974	I975	I976 (at time of writing)
Total RH	I85 $\frac{1}{2}$	I98	II8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total eels	I8	I9	28
0 - I	IO	II	9
I - 2	7	7	I3
2 - 3	I	0	6
3 - 4	0	I	0
I1b + eels	8	8	II9
21b + eels	I	I	6
RH/eel	IO	IO	4
RH/I1b+	23	22	6
RH/ 21b +	I85	I98	I9

TABLE 2. 2.I waters(lakes with inlet/outlet)

	I974	I975	I976
Total RH	422 $\frac{3}{4}$	478 $\frac{3}{4}$	235 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total eels	6	5	6
0 - I	2	2	I
I - 2	3	2	3
2 - 3	I	0	2
3 - 4	0	I	0
I1b + eels	4	3	5
21b + eels	I	I	2
RH/ E	70	96	39
RH/I	IO5	I59	47
RH/2	422	478	II6

TABLE 3. 2.2 Waters(enclosed lakes)

	I974	I975	I976
Total RH	233 $\frac{1}{2}$	246 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{3}{4}$
Total eels	4	2	2
0 - I	0	0	0
I - 2	I	I	0
2 - 3	0	I	I
3 - 4	3	0	I
I1b + eels	4	2	2
21b + eels	3	I	2
RH/E	57	I23	49
RH/I	57	I23	49
RH/2	77	246	49

clutch takes care of any sudden lunges by the eel. The tables on page 85 incorporate data for the seasons 1974, 1975 and 1976. It must be remembered that the earlier two years were fished with 'coventional tackle' i.e. stepped up rods and I2 - I5 lbs B.S. line, while the present (1976) is fished light.

It may therefore be concluded that there are real differences between the data for 1974/75 and 1976. We are justified in looking for explanations.

It is possible that 1976 itself is an exceptional year for eels, both numerically and in weight. It is also possible that feeding spells coincided with time spent on the waters in question, although it is possible that these two factors did not take place together during previous seasons.

However, since light tackle has been used the rate of catch has improved significantly - so much so in fact that there seems to be only a minute chance that my results have arrived fortuitously. Since the rate of catch for two pound eels has improved so dramatically, could not larger eels be caught progressively faster. While we may have learned how to improve our catches in a general way, we do not yet seem to have succeeded in improving our catches of the larger eels.

If light line angling opens up another possibility to eel fishermen, nothing but good can come of it.

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OUR CLUB FUNDS

A.J.Sutton.

Take a look at the envelope in which this copy of your BULLETIN came through the post. Note carefully how much postage was paid. A fair bit, eh ? Now do a quick and simple calculation and you will find that more is spent on postage to each member than that member pays in subscription. . Surprised ?

On the face of it we should be broke. We are not, but this happy situation has not come about purely by chance. We have had a succession of Treasurers who have quite ably looked after our funds. They do a grand job and their praises are largely unsung. Good as they are, though, even they could not continue to pay out more than was coming in.

Our happy financial position is largely brought about by the fact that each year we do receive donations from a few members. We are deeply grateful. Another source of extra income has helped us no end. I refer to the profit from various raffles.

With our Annual General Meeting just three months away, might I ask YOU to see if you have a useful item of tackle which is surplus to requirements ? If you have, why not donate same to the Club. Let our Treasurer have the item and he will do the best he can with it. We are not sponging. We NEED such support. Compare our Subscription to that of some of the large Angling Associations - then compare the return you get. I think that you will be pleased with the return you get from what is, after all, YOUR CLUB. Do give it a little thought. See what YOU can do.

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