



The National Anguilla Club

BULLETIN

VOLUME: 14.

NUMBER: 3.

NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB BULLETIN.

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EDITORIAL.

By; Terry Jefferson.

Once more, I am providing the Editorial for this edition of the Bulletin. The reason being that, as has been the case since I took on the job of Secretary, the volume of Club work to be attended to has made it necessary to do the work at a breakneck speed which has meant that Arthur Sutton and myself have not been able to organise our efforts properly. Hopefully, we will be organised by the time the next edition of this Bulletin is printed. Of course, that is going to depend very much on you lot.....no articles, NO BULLETINS!

It would appear from past response to requests for articles, some members make the effort to put pen to paper, albeit very brief, and then the supply dries up until the next request or reminder goes out. Not a very healthy situation or do you disagree. Perhaps it might be possible to dispense with the Bulletin and just leave you to wonder what other members may think if you could have your opinions and ideas published. It would save us a considerable amount of time and a lot of paper, instead of wasting time and paper trying to fill in the spaces just to be able to say that so many editions of the Bulletin were published.

In the wake of the A.G.M. everyone must make the effort to get this Club back into a position where anyone can be impressed by the way in which the entire membership contributes to the well-being of the Club, and not just the Committee.

Everyone seems to expect the Committee to run things without any problems and without having to ask members for their opinions. In the normal course of events, that may be true, but if anyone feels that things are starting to go wrong, or something needs altering, then they should say so and not sit back and brood over the cause of their concern. The last thing I want to see is a repetition of the last A.G.M. which would do noone any good at all, especially the Club.

Enough of my ramblings for now, just remember, it's up to you lot.

In this edition you will find a very interesting and entertaining article from Dave Holman. The type of thing that makes for excellent reading, full of incident and observations which could easily be applied to any water to improve anyones results as Dave has indicated.

The article from Kelvin Hardman is one which should provoke a fair amount of discussion and could tie-in quite well with the new Reporting Scheme. Everyone must have their personal views on this subject and is cordially invited to make them known via the Bulletin.

Pete Nunn's article deals with a subject which we have all heard of or seen at some time. Pete has given it a very useful and practical application.

Thats about it for this month now you can get on with reading the stuff that matters.

Terry Jefferson.
General Secretary.

*Fishing The Chesapeake Marshes*NINE NIGHTS AT ELLESMERE.

by; Dave Holman.

Just occasionally in Angling, things turn out exactly as you planned them. Thoughts and ideas you work on throughout the season suddenly turn up trumps and when this happens, it can make success that much sweeter.

My own success story, if I can call it that, was when I spent nine nights fishing the waters of Ellesmere during the Summer of 1976. The problem was one which faces us all from time to time, no matter where you fish: How the hell do you catch the big eels from these waters of such great potential?

For two full seasons of 1974-75 Ernie Orme and I had fished the Ellesmere waters throughout the Summer and Autumn months with very little to show for our efforts. We knew that should we find the right combination we could expect some really big eels, yet results so far had been extremely dissappointing.

It was while discussing the problem during our drive to and from the Spring G.M. that ideas began to flow:- In the past we had been playing it all wrong, laying out all our equipment and as darkness fell, casting in and retiring to the inevitable bedchair, only to reel in the following morning and lament the lack of eels.

This was no way to catch anything!

I reasoned that during the short hours of darkness in June, provided conditions were not too adverse, the eels would move across the shallow waters to feed. After all, just consider these shallow areas, they were teeming with small fish and all manner of food for our *Anguilla* to fatten on.

Fishing in June meant just four hours after 11.00pm when the eels were most likely to take, and yet where were we to be found? Curled up asleep. In addition there was all that clobber we camped with, why on earth did we need so much of it. Could not most of our kit be left at the car and only the essentials be taken to the actual spot? This meant that moving from one area to another would be little problem.

Things had to change and change they did. Armed with this simple reasoning I waited to try it out, and on June 18th the A60 set off towards Ellesmere loaded with tackle, food, beer, 1500 lobs, Angus the dog, and to keep up my morale when times got bad, a copy of Alan Hawkins brilliant article, "Whitmere revisited".

On arrival at Whitmere, I slowly walked across the gravel shores and what a sight lay before me. The sun was slowly setting behind distant trees throwing long shadows across 60 acres of golden water and better still, there wasn't a trace of surface weed in sight.

I set up well to the right of the car park and waited for darkness. An old arm-chair someone had kindly left made this an extremely comfortable spot to fish.

A long cool beer, and happiness was mine.

As the light faded the drone of the insects in the trees seemed to become louder, occasionally screened by the noise of a passing car on the nearby road.

How I remember that first night, like a chapter from a well loved book, I never wanted it to end. I sat back in my armchair with contentment oozing out of me.

Suddenly there was a crackling from the alarm and the shadow of a rod bouncing in the reeds. Line streaming from the reel I struck and landed my first eel of five during the night. None were over two pounds and I missed an awful number of bites.

It was very noticable that nearly all the takes had come from a small sandy sloping area about 18ft deep that lay between the deeps on my right and the shallow area opposite the car park. Were the eels passing through this patch to proceed to their normal feeding grounds and back again to deep water refuge in the morning? The idea was further reinforced by my getting bites regularly at dusk and dawn on rods fishing this slope and inbetween my baits on the shallows picked up the odd fish. Whether I was right in my assumption or not, this find was to prove of considerable benefit later in the season.

That afternoon I donned a pair of goggles and snorkel and swam out to the great "Hadrians Wall" of Whitmere, a run of weed 25yds out which stretches across the front of the lake. It was an incredible sight, a jumble of long green plants reaching from the bottom to just below the surface, perfectly straight and only two feet wide, it entwined like some well loved privet hedge bordering a parsons garden.

Evening brought the rains and as darkness fell I again caught my eels on the slope, a further 9 were taken up to 3:13. Things were beginning to happen. Ernie Orme fished with me this night and he too caught plenty of eels.

I intended to fish several of the meres and so the following day I drove the couple of miles to Crosemere, parked just off the main road and walked down the steep banks towards the water.

Crosemere has an appeal all of its own, a certain something which makes every visit a memorable one. This day it had a look of absolute perfection.

I fought my way to a clearing in the trees, a spot I had previously caught an eel of 5:04 from. It is a narrow part of the lake with a gradual shallowing bottom of thick mud, lined by heavy rushes, trees and bankside growth. No one had fished this spot for some time as the banks were a mass of head high grass and brambles which enveloped my brolly tent like some gigantic black mushroom.

Positioning my rods to cover as much of this shallow water as possible, I waited for darkness and then groundbaited with large quantities of lobworms in trails, various distances from the bank. Midnight, and perch made merry on my free offerings and I caught several to 2:06 plus a lively pike before all went quiet again.

Staying awake at Whitemere had been easy, the alarm was buzzing every few minutes to remind me that kipping at night was against the rules. Here all was silence.

Just as I was beginning to nod off I was jolted by an alarm, I approached the rod concerned. No movement on the line, I waited a while, nothing happened and so I decided to reel in. A few yards of line went on the reel when I felt the surge of a good fish. He was on and taking line as he pulled strongly away from me, but his bid for freedom was short lived and after five minutes I landed a lively eel of 4:11. The big landing net that Terry Jefferson made for me proved a valuable asset as the great size allowed plenty of room for error.

Feeling decidedly pleased with myself I put my prize into the keepnet, rebaited the rod and cast out, brewed a cup of tea and settled down to wait again. A few minutes later and the furthest rod started to play my tune, the tell tale buzz-buzz that sometimes precedes a tango I gathered my net and made off towards it. The line was still going off as I arrived and picking up the rod, I struck firmly. The thing lurched over with a power smacking into it like a mobile cement wagon. It took me completely by surprise, knocked me off balance and in the struggle to get upright, I filled up one of my waders with water.

He was backing off towards the far bank and nothing I could do would even slow him down, such was the power of this fish.

"This is it," I thought, "Come to David you big black sod," but he was having none of it, every time I made an attempt to gain some line the result was a blitzing attack from him. I was beginning to fear that he may take refuge in the opposite bank and guessed that he must have been within 25yds of it by now. My strongest outfit was being treated like some old greenheart fly rod, "What on earth had I hooked?"

Then at last his lunges became less dramatic and slowly but surely I regained a little line. My arms ached as I inched him towards me and there in the faint sparkle of the lakes surface I could see a circle of ripples and hear a whirl on the line as he thrashed to and fro. Surely, I reasoned, he was mine now and I reached for my landing net but hells bells, it was caught on a tree. With one arm I fought to free it while holding the rod in the other. At last it was untangled, but the agony as I felt a solid resistance on the line and the realisation that he was stuck on something on the bottom.

Without thinking, I dropped the rod, grabbed the line and ploughed towards the snag, he was in there somewhere and I wasn't giving up that easily.

Up to my waist I began to feel for the offending object and followed the line down until I grabbed hold of an old iron gate. I couldn't move the thing but beyond the snag was the strain of my eel, still firmly hooked.

Slowly I handlined him towards me, daring hardly to breathe in case he came off, then came the leger-stop and knowing this to be only two to three feet from the eel, I manouvered the net carefully under him. With a heave upwards he was mine, I bit through the line and crashed towards the bank.

Dripping wet from head to toe I shone my soggy headlamp into the net and there he was.....all 2:12 of him!!

Time to reflect now that perhaps he had been training on a Charles Atlas course, or at least been at the hard stuff, because if I had lost that eel I would have been convinced it would have made double figures.

After such an ordeal I returned to my sleeping bag and awoke some hours later in brilliant sunshine. I donned an old pair of shorts and pumps, that were to become standard daytime uniform for the rest of my trip.

Under the battle flag of sodden wet underwear and a "NATIONAL SEX WEEK-GIVE TILL IT HURTS", T shirt swinging lazily in the breeze, I remembered that epic battle. I walked over to the keepnet and gazed at the fish responsible, "To hell with it", I thought, and had a beer.

Following an afternoon nap I walked around the mere spinning for perch and occasionally enjoying a swim in the warm clear water. After a few hours I had made my way around to a small stream at the top end of the lake and around the shallow area where they met were millions of tiny perch which were being attacked by their bigger brethren. I sat back to watch these large shapes inflict devastating casualties with their runs at the fry, sending them scattering in all directions. Not only perch, but occasionally a pike would join in the feast.

Here was perhaps a chance not to be missed, if these predators were enjoying themselves during daylight, darkness would bring a new menace to the fry population.

Unfortunately, when I returned to my original spot I reasoned that the walk to the far side would be hard, even a modest amount of tackle being a heavy burden on such a trek and so I made a serious mistake and stayed put for the night and suffered a blank. I vowed I would not be so lazy again.

I had planned to fish with my father at Whitemere on the Tuesday night so back I went and again fixed position to fish the slope from my favourite "armchair" swim.

The hours past and as the light faded, the clouds began to thicken and thunder threatened all round. My father never turned up. The warm air was still and thick with insects and the water was alive with small fish skipping on the surface.

I remembered Alan Hawkins article, for it was on such a night that he caught a 5:06 eel only a few yards from where I was now fishing.

An opportunity not to be missed, I flung open all my tackle boxes and assembled every rod I had with me. Old bite alarms, not used for many seasons, were cleaned off and put into commission alongside the perfection of the Arthur Sutton models.

The conditions persisted long into the night, and I was certain that at any moment one of my seven (yes 7!) rods would signal the onslaught. Yet despite the perfect night I only had two bootlaces to show for my efforts the following morning. I could not understand why I had caught so little despite moving position of my tackle throughout the night and reasoned that perhaps Whitemere eels havn't read Alans article. My chance slid away as the morning sun broke through the thick clouds to reveal yet another glorious day.

Wednesday morning and I moved to Blakemere and set up my hideout between the lake-side and the canal, which runs along the meres border.

Blakemere has produced a number of really big eels in the past, including a 6:00 specimen a few years ago. The intriguing question is why the water appears to contain so few eels when the canal which runs just a few feet away boasts thousands of them. This situation we have tried to remedy over the years by transferring eels caught from other nearby waters.

In 1975 a friend of mine caught a Blakemere eel of 5:11 while fishing just a few yards out from the tree lined waters edge. That eel had moved into a groundbaited area put in to attract the bream. With this fact in mind I decided to fish the shallow margin waters and waited for darkness before setting out 5 rods along a considerable length of the bank, baits were again lobworms and dace deadbaits.

During the night I had just one run which I think was a big tench. I lost him under a snag after a thrilling ten minute fight in which I never looked like gaining the upper hand, such was the determination of that fish to beat me.

At dawn I reeled in most of my rods and headed for the sleeping bag. Six hours later I was woken by a commotion behind my hideout and with bloodshot eyes, peered out to find several boys fighting over who should have which of the batch of rods someone had kindly left for them.....having shifted the horrors I set out towards my car for something to eat. While cooking one of those Crosemere perch in my fish smoker, I kept thinking of that corner swim and all those small perch. Surely here was an obvious place for a big eel to come in search of food.

I resolved, walk or no walk, I would return to Crosemere for the rest of my stay and shortly afterwards I had packed all my gear and was climbing over the five barred gate towards the water.

In my absence the contractors had moved in and what just a few days before had been fields of shoulder high grassland had now been cut dried and baled in a matter of hours, just the parched brown land remained. The sun was again blisteringly hot as in two loads I toiled to the corner swim and set up my tackle.

Worms would again be the major bait but I was also hoping to use one or two of...

...those small perch. Despite all my attempts at fishing, trapping and netting I was finally reduced to hurling a few rocks at them before I managed to acquire a few.

It was now the seventh day of my trip and this was the only day I was to see anyone other ^{THAN} Ernie Orme fishing. He was a Polish chap who told me many tales of the big eels in the meres including a 6:00 whopper he had caught himself while livebaiting for pike. To prove his story he handed me an old tatty photograph with crumpled, beer-stained edges, (this was obviously a much favoured story of his.). Having caught a few perch, he retired to the Red Lion before closing time and left me to fish alone for the night.

Before darkness came I again took good perch on lobs but after 11.00pm all was still and quiet, not a ripple disturbed the calm waters. I waited, and just as I was about to rebait, one of my alarms sounded a run. Being extremely careful to move quietly towards my rod, as the bait was only a few yards away, I arrived to hear the rustle of the line slowly coiling through the rings. When I struck I firmly hooked what I immediately knew to be a big eel only a few feet away.

The rod was wrenched over to its full arc and the full power of the fish was taken on at point blank range. With huge clumps of green weed hanging from the line, like a naval signal unit, the eel made out towards the deeps. Quite happy to let him go that way I made only token resistance against him for I have learned from bitter experience when canal eel fishing, that a recently hooked lively eel just doesn't like to be netted. During the fight the fish crossed several of my other lines giving repeated buzzes, bleeps and flashing lights from different alarms hidden in the bank-side growth. This was no problem really and I knew that I wasn't going to lose this eel. He had nowhere to go and after several minutes of his back pedalling, the action changed to a series of tugs as he wrapped his tail around the line and tried to wrench himself free. Shortly afterwards I had him coming nicely to the net across the shallow sand. I walked out to greet him with the arms of the 42" net only too eager to engulf him.

The scales sprang round to 5:34 and I was doubly happy to see that he was lip-hooked. Later that day I had the weight confirmed at 5:02 on the Ellesmere Angling Clubs scales. Happy to see my prize in perfect health I returned him to the water and watched him sink slowly through the margin weed growth and out into the deeper water beyond.

That's what I had waited all these nights for and I couldn't help feeling pretty pleased with myself saying over and over again, "I told you so, you big daft bugger".

Opposite my first pitch at Crosemere were a series of very small stages hidden deep in the rushes. To get to the waters edge you had to balance very carefully on a narrow plank and walk out extremely gingerly, one false move and it was up to your arm pits in the black stuff.

This was to be the area for my next nights attempt. Remembering Dave Smiths advice on how to set up alarms on board a boat, I got busy taping the heads to the staging. Over a distance of 100yds I set out five rods each baited with freelined lobworms and all placed within a couple of feet of this great wall of rushes that ran the perimeter of this end of the lake. I still had plenty of worms left and so laid a trail of about 150 6-8ft out, parallel to the bank.

The weather had again been scorching hot during the day, just a faint breeze giving a cooling relief. Shortly after dark the temperature dropped smartly and left a million stars twinkling in the heavens. Not exactly an eel anglers dream but then again that perfect night earlier in the week had not produced much at all.

Half an hour after rebaiting with fresh lobs, it was again the most distant rod which signalled a run. I could scarcely hear the unit as it was over 50yds away. I gathered my net, and when I arrived at the wobbly plank to the staging told myself not to panic and take it easy. However, I missed my footing and remembered with horror my previous ducking as I quickly sank into the oozy muck. Coated with the stuff I scrambled onto the stage and it was obvious that my antics had awakened the eel into activity, line was peeling off the reel at an almighty lick. No need to strike, I simply tightened on him and was delighted to feel that here was yet another very big eel.

Netting an eel in 5ft of water from a stage is considerably more difficult than landing one on a shallow bank and I had a few anxious moments before dripping wet, I lifted yet another big fish to the bank. My only fish of that night, at 5:08 it turned out to be my best ever eel. Unfortunately he was gut hooked and died later that day in the keepnet, and a sad sight he looked going all pale and stiff.

My last night was a morbid affair, trying hard not to think about returning to work to fill in all those petty little forms, but instead wishing that I could enjoy this lovely sunshine and fine sport for just a few more days. All too soon I was packing my gear away for the final time and loading up the car for the journey home.

A long last look through the heat haze towards the mere and I drove away.

During my 9 nights at the meres I had caught some lovely fish. Was it all due to the original idea of fishing the shallows, or perhaps being lucky in choosing perfect conditions? (The water temp. rose from 58-69F during my stay.)

I like to think that it was my real determination that brought me the catches, along with the other factors I have mentioned. One thing you can be certain of, there will be only one place I shall be heading for this Summer.

Anyone fancy joining me?

DO EELS KNOW ABOUT TRACES.

by; Kelvin Hardman.

One of the things that puzzles me about some Eel Fishermen is their refusal to use traces! No amount of talk and discussion will change their views. It seems logical to me that if an eel will accept the thick guage of a hook, then why on earth should they refuse a trace of smaller dimensions. The traces I use are of 18lb.B.S., and comparable in thickness to 10lb.B.S. Maxima or similar monofilament.

The Anglers who use nylon invariably use nylon of about 20lb.B.S. which is about twice as thick as 10lb. nylon, and the heavier nylon is very often chewed through by a deep hooked eel.

There are of course certain standards I apply when making my traces. All my traces are made between 18" and 24" long. I look at it the same way as a bristle, if it's short, then it's stiff. The longer it is and the more supple it becomes.

I can hear your thoughts now.

"Ah.. When I bait up, my hook is always hidden".

Hidden it may be, until the eel finds your bait. The eel has time on it's side to inspect and examine the bait if that is what it does.

Then the take....the eels mouth is not particularly large, unlike the pike, and I reckon they feel the hook. It may be too late to reject the bait as the hook may well be on its way with the trace following close behind. To my mind, it's too late for the eel to feel the trace.

As for some of the ultra-cult, I can hear them saying,"I always hook my eels in the lips, the eels always biting on the shank of the hook."

I have never met an eel fisherman who has never gut hooked an eel, it's an occupational hazard I'm afraid. Although I try to cut down on gut hooked eels, a fair percentage always will be. I should think that some of the 4lb.+ eels I've had would never have been landed had it not been for my use of trace wire.

The trace wire I use is purchased from Mullarkeys, of Burton-on-Trent. It is called "MARLINSTEEL", and it costs £4-20p. per 100yds.

EEL QUIETNER.

by; Pete Nunn.

As most Eel anglers are aware, you can keep an eel quiet by laying the eel on its back in a groove in the ground, or between a row of bricks as Brian Crawford has said.

I started using this method after being shown it by Chris Davy and Terry Jefferson at Abberton Reservoir when I first fished there with them.

I mainly use this method for keeping the eels quiet when I am unhooking them or measuring the length. I now carry around with me a length of aluminium angle iron, (for lightness) measuring 2"x1 1/2"x1/4", which I have cut to a length of 36". This has catered for eels to 3:10 so far. I have painted the inside of the angle black to prevent the eels being affected by the grey film which exists on untreated aluminium. Along the top edge of the angle I have araldited a length of an old steel tape so that I can see at a glance what length the eel is. Why dont you try it?

THE NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB

GUIDE TO THE REPORTING SCHEME FOR 1976.

ISSUED SPRING 1976.

INTRODUCTION.

In presenting the Guide for 1976, I must remind members that the aim of the National Anguilla Club is to be the premier specimen group for eels in this country. At the moment we do hold that position, but we have to ensure we keep it. It is vital therefore, that every member helps in every way.

Taking care in the filling in of session report forms is so important. I know it may feel tedious at times, but please do try to be as accurate as possible. All measurements should be taken, even of the smallest bootlace eel. If it is so small it does not register on your scales, then just write 'under 1oz' or 'under $\frac{1}{2}$ oz'. You may not think it important, but statistically speaking, the smallest eels are just as important as the very biggest. The point is that these small eels are there and therefore must be counted. We do not know at this stage what importance we can relate to each set of our facts. We use as many as possible and store the rest. As time permits, the Club Analyst will set out our mass of data in different ways, but until then, all facts count.

The system of Regional Reporting Officers worked well again last year and will be carried forward into 1976 with few changes. I have tried to arrange members so that they form a regional sub - group, all members being in contact with their Regional Officer. It may be useful if these regional sub groups could even hold a few meetings each season, perhaps on a local water, to discuss the potential of the waters in their area.

One or two members however, are with an RRO not in their area. I'm sorry, it cannot be helped because members are not spread out equally in the regions. There is nothing to stop them attending meetings in their own area though.

As for last year, send all your completed Session reports to your Regional Reporting Officer. If in any month, you do not have any sessions, you must still send in a NIL RETURN form. You should make a deadline for sending forms on to be the 7th of the following month. For example, session reports or a nil return form for April should be sent off so that your reporting officer receives them by the 7th of May at the latest. If he does not hear from you, you will receive a letter asking why. He has quite a lot of paperwork to do each month as it is, without extra letters, so do your bit and make life easier for him.

Also as per last season, do NOT send any session reports to your reporting officer after NOVEMBER 2nd. Send them directly to me or whoever is the Club Analyst at the time.

Water Questionnaire Forms should also be filled in for every water fished, and the forms sent to DAVE SMITH. These are also very, very important as they widen our knowledge of types of waters. These forms will be issued to you at the start of the season, but more are available on request to the General Secretary.

REGIONAL REPORTING OFFICERS.

<u>SOUTH EAST.</u>	<u>NORTH WEST</u>	<u>SOUTH WEST</u>	<u>MIDLANDS</u>	<u>NORTH EAST</u>
T. JEFFERSON	J. WATSON.	K. RICHMOND.	XXXXXXXXXX	S. HOPE.
C. DAVY.	A. BILLINGTON.	R. POUNTNEY.	R. CROXALL.	H. HANSEN.
XXXXXXXXXX	D. HOLMAN.	N. L. S. JEYES.	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
A. J. SUTTON.	XXXXXXXXXX	D. KNEE.	XXXXXXXXXX	C. HOUGHTON.
A. F. HAWKINS.	XXXXXXXXXX	J. BELL.	B. CRAWFORD.	G. BOOTH.
R. GOLDSMITH.	XXXXXXXXXX	K. STEPHENSON.	XXXXXXXXXX	R. HUDSON.
J. HOLLIMAN.	XXXXXXXXXX	S. WOODS.	K. Handman.	V. Molyneux
P. T. Nunn.	XXXXXXXXXX	D. Smith	R. T. Whitehouse	S. Redford
			J. Munn	
			A. Hilderbach	

SESSION REPORT FORM COMPLETION. (IMPORTANT. USE NEW 1976 FORMS ONLY !)

Please fill the Session Reporting Forms as follows: -

1. NAME OF MEMBER

Put your name clearly, plus the names of any other members fishing with you as this assists in cross referencing of waters.

2. NAME OF WATER

All waters must have a name. If a code name is used, please ensure that all members who fish that water use the same code name. If fishing a river or canal then the section can be localised by giving the name of the nearest town or village.

CLASS OF WATER

This section has now been included on the 1976 Session Report Forms but will be repeated here.

Record the class of water according to the following notation: -

- I.1. UPLAND RIVER (ie., fast flowing, 'trout type')
- I.2. LOWLAND RIVER (covers most rivers, eg Thames, Great Ouse, Nene)
- I.3. TIDAL RIVER
- 2.1. LAKES etc with an outflow (even if only for part of the year)
- 2.2. LAKES totally enclosed - no outflow at any time.
- 2.3. CANALS and DRAINS.
- 3.1. ESTUARIES and CREEKS.
- 3.2. SALT LAGOONS
- 3.3. THE SEA.

3. SESSION DATE and TIMES.

For each session record the time and date (to the nearest 1/4 hour) when the first rod was cast out, and when the last rod was reeled in.

Use the 24 hour clock system - ie., 1 am = 0100, 9 am = 0900, Noon = 1200, 7.30 pm = 1930 etc.

In general, a single session report should not cover a period of more than twenty four hours. If you fish continuously for longer than this, it is advisable to start a new session report at(say) midnight on the second day.

Remember - different waters require different session reports, even if fished on the same day or at the same time.

For an overnight session record the day and time as follows : -

I5 - I6/7/76 I900 - 0800

At the end of a month, if this falls during a session, then reports MUST be split up into TWO separate ones. Months should never run into each other, ie end one session report at midnight on the last day of the month and start the new one from midnight for the first day of the month.

e.g. 30/6/76 I845 - 2400 Session I
I/7/76 0000 - 0915 Session 2

Remember, it is possible, by fishing adjacent waters, overnight on the last night of the month, to fill in four session reports instead of one.

4 a. SWIM NUMBER.

This applies to still waters only. These results are analysed to see if hot spots occur or if they do, how long they last. Therefore, all waters fished should have a map of all swims numbered and all who fish the water should use the same system.

4 b. Session Number

This is to assist in analysing 4a above. Each visit to a numbered swim must be entered by each member. 1,2,3,4,5,6, etc.

5. ROD USAGE.

Space is provided for up to four rods. If you use more, you can adjust this section by renumbering the spaces as if all rods are used with the same bait in the same spot, you could enter up to sixteen rods....

As each rod is cast out enter the date and the time to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ hour. If all rods are prepared and baited up then cast out in quick succession, then the same starting time can be allocated to all.

There is a new section added now, with the heading 'number of runs ', this is to establish the potential of a water or a swim for records. Many members have had very active nights but failed, for several reasons possibly, to land an eel. Therefore a water could be assumed poor, when in fact a different method may be very successful.

The total number of runs per rod are entered under this section. Regardless whether the bait was dropped or the fish not hooked or lost after hooking. Several abortive runs may be the work of a single bootlace or a small pike, but until we have assessed results for a few seasons, we can form no conclusions as to its validity.

Under ' bait type ' record W if you are using worm bait, DB if using a dead fish or portion of a dead fish as bait, or O if you are using any other form of bait, eg, maggots, liver etc. Under description of bait give further details eg., 'two lobworms', 5" roach, head section of herring, etc. In the optional swim details column, you may enter distance cast, estimated in yards, depth in feet, bottom type according to the following notation. -

SOFT - silt or mud.

MEDIUM - coarse sand or fine gravel.

HARD - stony or rocky bottom.

Under snags, write YES if you have deliberately cast within (say) 5 - 10 yds of a known snag (fallen tree, dense weed bed, etc., otherwise write NO.

As each rod is reeled in in the morning enter time and date in the boxes beneath the TO column. (to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ hour).

If during the session you change the position of where the bait is located, ie deeper water or type of swim, or change the bait to a different class, a second entry should be made for that rod with new starting and finishing times.

6. BAIT USEAGE.

This section has been modified firstly in that the positions of entry for DB day, DB night, W day and W night have been reversed from previous session report forms. This is to make the transfer of data to the main analysis forms easier and does not change anything for members. The second change is the rounding off of night hours. This was accepted at the 1975 A.G.M. to make calculation easier and, of course, due to cloud cover and monthly variations, it is wrong to define the start of night to an exact minute. The ranges may seem unbalanced to some, but one has to take into account the changes due to British Summer time and the adjusting of clocks.

In completing this section, add up the hours per rod for items 1 to 6, enter them as totals in the rod hours column and the number of eels caught for each bait type in the number of eels column.

eg. any eels caught on DB before 20.30 in April would be entered as DB DAY, any caught after this time to be DB NIGHT, and so on.

Please be careful when completing this section as this is where most errors are made.

7. EELS TAKEN.

This section is to record details of eels caught and also date, time and bait number for any abortive runs.

Please use metric units for weight, length and girth. Enter the eels in order of capture, give day and month, ie 17/6, and time to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ hour eg 2315, 0030, 0200, 0345. Enter bait number used in item 6.

Sex and stomach contents should be taken if the eels are killed, the more useful item being stomach content.

If the eel is returned you may enter this fact in the remarks column, as also you should state here if the eel was tagged and the code number allocated to this eel.

8. OBSERVATIONS - AIR and WATER TEMPERATURE.

These are optional items, but if recorded, use FAHRENHEIT units as these are most easily understood by most members.

For AIR temperature, readings should be taken in the shade. For WATER temperature, this should be the bottom temperature as near as possible to where you bait or baits lay.

9. OBSERVATION - CLOUD % and WIND.

Also optional. Do not give too much detail, only the following to be used:-
CLEAR - No cloud or almost so write 0.
PARTIALLY CLOUDED, write 50.
TOTALLY OVERCAST or almost so, write 100.

Whenever the cloud % changes, you should make a corresponding change in your entry including time and date the change occurred.

A section on wind has been included to see if there is any observable effect. Here you should enter the direction the wind is blowing from using the main eight points of the compass, eg; North, North East, East, South East, South, South West, West, North West.

You should also give an estimation of wind speed under the following notation -
NIL, no wind at all.
FRESH, causes small ripples.
MODERATE, blows smoke almost parallel to the ground.
STRONG, if, in an exposed swim, you are thinking of changing it.

10. GENERAL COMMENT.

To record any further information you feel is of relevance or may be useful.

WATER QUESTIONNAIRES.

As members who have been in the Club for some time will know, we are trying to relate water type to eel fishing potential. Therefore, whenever a water has yielded sufficient eels to get some idea of its quality, we request that a detailed questionnaire form be completed by members fishing the water to get an accurate picture of that water.

It should be obvious that we need a great deal of completed forms sent in to give an accurate picture as with rod hours and all other items analysed. We hope to establish facts like:- Are gravel pits better, on the whole, than Clay pits, or vice versa ?
Are small waters better than big ones ?
Does distance from the sea make any difference ? and so on.

Your committee spent a fair amount of time and effort devising these forms to help you and the Club, so make sure you do your bit by spending an evening or two filling them in with details of all waters you fish.

We have almost 200 waters now in the Club files, but very few Water Questionnaires on them. We know who fishes which waters. Are you going to wait until we write to you as individuals or not ?

METRICATION.

For the benefit of all, here are a few words about this topic.

At the Clubs 1973 A.G.M. the Club decided to go metric. This was done to aid the Club Analysts in cutting down on time spent on preparing the annual reports. This has, in fact, happened. It has been a great help. The use of several computer programmes and electronic calculators has helped even more. As a physics teacher, I find it much simpler to work in decimals. Therefore, I hope all members will continue to make the effort to do their conversions from lbs and oz, to kilograms and inches to centimetres. Remember, you will all, on average, deal with about 25 - 30 session reports. Regional Reporting Officers deal with 150 - 200 session reports, and finally the Club Analyst is faced with over 1000. There are an awful lot of figures involved if you care to think about it. It is ever so easy to slip up on any one of the items involved in filling in session report forms, all I can ask is that you take as much care as is possible. Please be accurate.

The metric conversion tables were prepared for us by DAVE BALL, and are fairly straightforward in use.

eg. 3lb 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz, usually written as 3:11 $\frac{1}{2}$ converts to 1.684 Kg.
eg. 28 $\frac{3}{4}$ " converts to 73.02 cm.

In case of difficulty, on any item, please DO write to me.

BRIAN CRAWFORD. January 1976.

METRIC EQUIVALENTS

POUNDS AND OUNCES TO KILOGRAMMES

Pounds	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ounces	Kgs.	Kgs.	Kgs.	Kgs.	Kgs.	Kgs.	Kgs.	Kgs.	Kgs.
		0.453	0.906	1.359	1.812	2.265	2.718	3.171	3.624
$\frac{1}{2}$	0.014	0.467	0.920	1.373	1.826	2.279	2.732	3.185	3.638
1	0.028	0.481	0.934	1.387	1.840	2.293	2.746	3.199	3.652
$1\frac{1}{2}$	0.042	0.495	0.948	1.401	1.854	2.307	2.760	3.213	3.666
2	0.056	0.509	0.962	1.415	1.868	2.321	2.774	3.227	3.680
$2\frac{1}{2}$	0.070	0.523	0.976	1.429	1.882	2.335	2.788	3.241	3.694
3	0.085	0.538	0.991	1.444	1.897	2.350	2.803	3.256	3.709
$3\frac{1}{2}$	0.099	0.552	1.005	1.458	1.911	2.364	2.817	3.270	3.723
4	0.113	0.566	1.019	1.472	1.925	2.378	2.831	3.284	3.737
$4\frac{1}{2}$	0.127	0.580	1.033	1.486	1.939	2.392	2.845	3.298	3.751
5	0.141	0.594	1.047	1.500	1.953	2.406	2.859	3.312	3.765
$5\frac{1}{2}$	0.155	0.608	1.061	1.514	1.967	2.420	2.873	3.326	3.779
6	0.170	0.623	1.076	1.529	1.982	2.435	2.888	3.341	3.794
$6\frac{1}{2}$	0.184	0.637	1.090	1.543	1.996	2.449	2.902	3.355	3.808
7	0.198	0.651	1.104	1.557	2.010	2.463	2.916	3.369	3.822
$7\frac{1}{2}$	0.212	0.665	1.118	1.571	2.024	2.477	2.930	3.383	3.836
8	0.226	0.679	1.132	1.585	2.038	2.491	2.944	3.397	3.850
$8\frac{1}{2}$	0.240	0.693	1.146	1.599	2.052	2.505	2.958	3.411	3.864
9	0.255	0.708	1.161	1.614	2.067	2.520	2.973	3.426	3.879
$9\frac{1}{2}$	0.269	0.722	1.175	1.628	2.081	2.534	2.987	3.440	3.893
10	0.283	0.736	1.189	1.642	2.095	2.548	3.001	3.454	3.907
$10\frac{1}{2}$	0.297	0.750	1.203	1.656	2.109	2.562	3.015	3.468	3.921
11	0.311	0.764	1.217	1.670	2.123	2.576	3.029	3.482	3.935
$11\frac{1}{2}$	0.325	0.778	1.231	1.684	2.137	2.590	3.043	3.496	3.949
12	0.340	0.793	1.246	1.699	2.152	2.605	3.058	3.511	3.964
$12\frac{1}{2}$	0.354	0.807	1.260	1.713	2.166	2.619	3.072	3.525	3.978
13	0.368	0.821	1.274	1.727	2.180	2.633	3.086	3.539	3.992
$13\frac{1}{2}$	0.382	0.835	1.288	1.741	2.194	2.647	3.100	3.553	4.006
14	0.396	0.849	1.302	1.755	2.208	2.661	3.114	3.567	4.020
$14\frac{1}{2}$	0.410	0.863	1.316	1.769	2.222	2.675	3.128	3.581	4.034
15	0.425	0.878	1.331	1.784	2.237	2.690	3.143	3.596	4.049
$15\frac{1}{2}$	0.439	0.892	1.345	1.798	2.251	2.704	3.157	3.610	4.063

METRIC EQUIVALENTS

INCHES TO CENTIMETRES

Inches	0	10	20	30	40	50
	Cms.	Cms.	Cms.	Cms.	Cms.	Cms.
		25.40	50.80	76.20	101.60	127.00
1/4	0.63	26.03	51.43	76.83	102.23	127.63
1/2	1.27	26.67	52.07	77.47	102.87	128.27
3/4	1.90	27.30	52.70	78.10	103.50	128.90
1	2.54	27.94	53.34	78.74	104.14	129.54
1.1/4	3.17	28.57	53.97	79.37	104.77	130.17
1.1/2	3.81	29.21	54.61	80.01	105.41	130.81
1.3/4	4.44	29.84	55.24	80.64	106.04	131.44
2	5.08	30.48	55.88	81.28	106.68	132.08
2.1/4	5.71	31.11	56.51	81.91	107.31	132.71
2.1/2	6.35	31.75	57.15	82.55	107.95	133.35
2.3/4	6.98	32.38	57.78	83.18	108.58	133.98
3	7.62	33.02	58.42	83.82	109.22	134.62
3.1/4	8.25	33.65	59.05	84.45	109.85	135.25
3.1/2	8.89	34.29	59.69	85.09	110.49	135.89
3.3/4	9.52	34.92	60.32	85.72	111.12	136.52
4	10.16	35.56	60.96	86.36	111.76	137.16
4.1/4	10.79	36.19	61.59	86.99	112.39	137.79
4.1/2	11.43	36.83	62.23	87.63	113.03	138.43
4.3/4	12.06	37.46	62.86	88.26	113.66	139.06
5	12.70	38.10	63.50	88.90	114.30	139.70
5.1/4	13.33	38.73	64.13	89.53	114.95	140.33
5.1/2	13.97	39.37	64.77	90.17	115.57	140.97
5.3/4	14.60	40.00	65.40	90.80	116.20	141.60
6	15.24	40.64	66.04	91.44	116.84	142.24
6.1/4	15.87	41.27	66.67	92.07	117.47	142.87
6.1/2	16.51	41.91	67.31	92.71	118.10	143.51
6.3/4	17.14	42.54	67.94	93.34	118.74	144.14
7	17.78	43.18	68.58	93.98	119.38	144.78
7.1/4	18.41	43.81	69.21	94.61	120.01	145.41
7.1/2	19.05	44.45	69.85	95.25	120.65	146.05
7.3/4	19.68	45.08	70.48	95.88	121.28	146.68
8	20.32	45.72	71.12	96.52	121.92	147.32
8.1/4	20.95	46.35	71.75	97.15	122.55	147.95
8.1/2	21.59	46.99	72.39	97.79	123.19	148.59
8.3/4	22.22	47.62	73.02	98.42	123.82	149.22
9	22.86	48.26	73.66	99.06	124.46	149.86
9.1/4	23.49	48.89	74.29	99.69	125.09	150.49
9.1/2	24.13	49.53	74.93	100.33	125.73	151.13
9.3/4	24.76	50.16	75.56	100.96	126.36	151.76