

The National Anguilla Club

BULLETIN

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THE NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB

BULLETIN.

VOLUME 16

ISSUE No 2.

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EDITORIAL.

I was due to have a real moan at you all this month. I was even contemplating packing up the Editors job. Now, lo and behold, your letters and articles have started to arrive at this office and your Editor is, once again, a man of great joy. Oh ye of little faith! As promised, I have completed the article on the current position in relation to close season eel fishing and have managed to fit it into this issue.

I feel that you will find this issue of your Bulletin of great interest(aren't they all ?). You will find the Bulletin a little larger than of late, which is your reward for sending in the goods. But even now, there are several of our members who have not yet written for us. How about it lads ? You cannot write ? Rubbish. In any case I feel that I am well able to cut out all the four letter words and drum anything you write into shape. It doesn't have to be typed you know, although that does help this busy soul a great deal.

Our Spring General Meeting loomes near - a time of great rejoicing with the actual eel fishing just around the corner. There is, as you will see in my article, close season eel fishing to be had. Such is the way of things that the ball has been left in our court to a great extent. I mean by that that we have to go out ourselves to find those waters where we may fish in the close season - provided the byelaws allow it. So do read my remarks in the article, and see if you can find something in YOUR area. If you help, just one member, you will have helped the Club.

There are a couple of other areas in which you can be of great help. How about doing a chart showing the phases of the moon for the coming summer and Autumn together with times of rising and setting ? I'm sure that a few of you could do a grand job and should we get more than one, maybe two or three can be integrated to turn out a first class job.

The other job is to do an appendix to the Bulletin Volume 15 (1978). Such is the workload at this end with your secretary and I, that any effort in that direction would be very greatly appreciated by us. Send any response the the two items direct to me(Editor) and I will do my best with them.

I have been doing a little work in finding out how much each copy of your Bulletin costs to produce. Estimating a Bulletin to be of fifteen pages(average), each copy is worth nearly 70p. Add to that the cost of packing and postage and I think that you will surely realise that you do get value for your subscription to this Club. And of course, all the work that goes into producing each issue is done entirely free.

Although this is by no means an advertising magazine, I wonder sometimes if we ought to advertise on a limited basis. Against this, of course, would be our rather small circulation. But it is a thought. You may be interested to learn that our young member David Walker is about to start his own tackle shop. I know that David is well aware of the needs and requirements of the specimen angler, and I dare say that he will keep those requirements in mind. I will let you know more as and when I can.

I would ask you all to please remember that this magazine is produced for and on behalf of the members of the National Anguilla Club. It should not, without the prior consent of the Committee, be shown or lent to persons outside the Club.

Possibly you will not see another issue of the Bulletin, apart from a Special Report issue, until after our Spring General Meeting. To those of you who intend starting really early may I wish you, on behalf of us all, the very best of sport.

Chairman's Page

I would like to use the Chairman's page this month to give a few of my thoughts in reply to Arthur's article on float fishing for eels at night in the last Bulletin.

To look at the problem logically, we have to divide it up into sections.

- a. simplicity - casting at night is tricky, complicated rigs may lead to unseen tangles.
- b. presentation - we are aiming to present our bait near the surface. this can be done in two main ways.
 - i) simple float rig.
 - ii) anchored float rig.

Bearing in mind the constrictions of sections (a) and (b), we also have of course to consider bite detection at night. This could rule out option (i) unless you use a beta float, good but expensive and limited range. You could try luminous or fluorescent floats in combination with a fine focussed torch, but again the range may be limited.

I tend to favour option (ii) after using this type of method with good results when pike fishing. My reasons are:-

- good bite detection using any form of indicator.
- it can be used at very long ranges if required.
- any depth of water can be fished.
- very few tangles - if any.

Method of Use

With reference to the diagrams on the next page, you will see that diagram (C) illustrates the individual items required. These can be obtained or made easily. The float is made from $\frac{1}{2}$ " balsa dowel rod from a model shop. Its stem and that of the stick ledger is made from cane bought from a tackle shop or garden shop. You must remember the float needs to be not more than half the length of your trace, otherwise you will get tangles. If you wish to fish deeper, you must put the float on the reel line between the stop shot and swivel, but with a further stop shot to prevent the float coming into contact with the swivel. It sounds complicated, but it works. You should study diagrams (B) & (A) to see how.

The float can be left black or painted fluorescent or luminous if you want to try illuminating it with a torch, or insert a beta light for short range fishing.

The stick ledger can be any length and the weight from $\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 oz., depending how far you wish to cast.

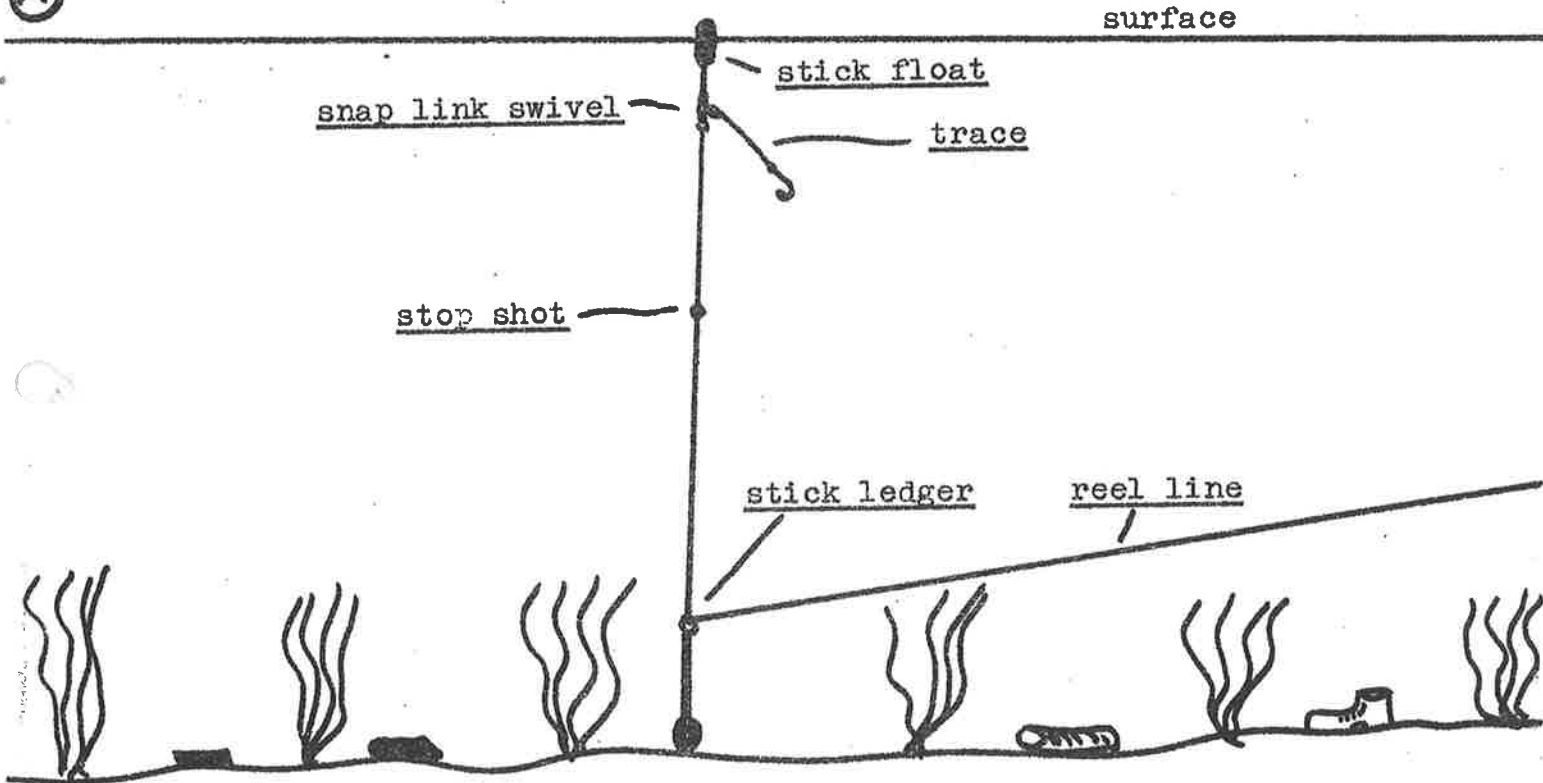
You can use live baits, deadbaits or fish portions, worms or whatever on the hook. I have even had success using a swim feeder as the weight instead of the stick ledger, but packed it with cotten wool soaked in pilchard oil to release an upwards moving trail around the bait. I intend using this method on one rod this year, perhaps one of you may also like to try it.

I would also welcome your suggestions for modifications to my ideas.

Brian Crawford

Float Rig For Night Eeling

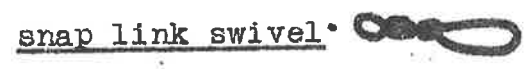
(A)



(B)



(C)



I REMEMBER.by Dave Holman.

It is not just because nowadays the lad calls me 'the old fella' or that now, when I go out fishing in the winter I need so much padding on that I look like a mobile army surplus shop, that I like to look back to the times when I went fishing as a lad.

This very occasional nostalgia does no harm, and how many stories of fishing I have heard began with those famous words 'I remember'. Certainly angling was very much simpler in those days. The memories and photographs of that huge five pound pike fill the heart with such passion, as one recalls the excitement when it was caught. Well I remember back in 1961 when the campaign was waged against the big eels of Marbury Mere - a thirty acre water some twelve miles from our house.

It was, and still is I'm glad to say, a truly lovely water nestled in the depths of some of Cheshires' best countryside. (Amen to that. Ed) Here, some years earlier, my father had caught an eel of three pound 4 ounces and that was, to me, one hell of a good fish. June 16th arrived and from then on my hefty green Raleigh bicycle was weekly pounding the roads to and from that water. All through the summer I fished there, occasionally catching one pound eels, hoping for two pounds, dreaming of a three pounder - especially something over that magical 3lb 4oz job. I'd beat the old chap yet!

Towards the end of the summer Marbury had taken a back seat as the best eel I had caught there weighed just 2lb 2oz. Now it was the turn of the pike, even though these were rarely any bigger than the eels. My friends and I caught plenty of these from the local reservoir and although everyone was keen on pike fishing at the reservoir at the mere mention of a Marbury Mere eel fishing trip they all slipped away making one excuse or another. Actually, all the lads thought that there was something quite wrong with me as I was the only one to prefer the thought of a days eel fishing to an evening out with 'Big Jane'. The plain fact is that my idea of Utopia was to somehow to combine the two. (All non fiction, this. Ed)

On the morning of October 28th I raked through my livebait tank but, try as I may, there was nothing in it so instead of a pike trip and livebait a bag of lobes and a session at Marbury was on. I must have been pretty flush that day for, complete with a packet of five Woodbines (10¹/₂d), I loaded all my gear on the bus which shortly afterwards began to pick its way along the long slim road down into the village. Some time later we rounded the bend and the large Oak tree and slowed down with a screech of brakes. A mad dash and I was first off the bus, making my way to the 'White Swan' for the mandatory 2/- day ticket. The landlord and water bailiff was a Mr Harding - a diminutive grey chap of seventy years or so and crippled with arthritis. His only exercise was in writing out the permits and this function he performed with considerable difficulty. What seemed an age and valuable fishing time was lost as each detail was painfully extracted and recorded on the permit.

The transaction completed I made my way along the gravestones of the church yard, across the stone wall and down towards the deep water spot which had seen so much of me during that summer. The church clock struck ten as I surveyed the scene. A huge Elm tree which had been struck by lightning and blown into the lake was on my left. Beyond that was a deep hole of 25ft which had apparently been blasted out by a German bomb in 1941 and in front of me lay 250 yds of open water. Around the waters edge the brown bullrush heads were gently swaying in the morning breeze and beyond them the pale lillies fringed the deeper water - dying now and ready for the winters rest.

My assembly of rods were indeed a rare group. Pride of place went to my Dads MK 1V carp rod and no matter where he hid it or how many locks were clamped to the fishing tackle cupboard, I had always managed to sneak it past the customs and into my rod bag. Next in line was a two piece built cane rod with a glass top - my match rod. It was twelve feet in length and weighed about the same in pounds.

Next came my 14ft Appollo Taperflash and at this time there were few anglers without these metal horrors. Last but not least was a 7ft boat rod since used for the thornback rays. The rods were balanced by such reels as an Ambidex, an Intrepid Supreme, an American effort no one would claim to have made and a 'Chief' at 24/-. This incredible hunk of rubbish was to cost me more fish than I care to remember.

Terminal tackle consisted of home made Arlesy bombs (with wire instead of posh swivels) which were stopped by a large split shot or a match stick tied some 18" from the size 6 eyed hook. The whole system was built around economy and what it lacked in finesse was made up in mass effect as the whole lot was cast into the distance. Having let the tackle sink the rod tips were angled high in the air and then watched for action.

Despite the fact that winter was nearly on us the day was one of bright sunshine and a warm South West wind was blowing moderately towards me. I felt quite confident and very soon the rods were jiggling about as the perch moved in on my lobworms. I caught plenty of them up to 1½lbs at long range from the deep water. They were really lovely striped jobs and scrapped really well and providing the worms were not too chewed up the perch would do a second tour of duty. As the bites tailed off I listened to the approach of the Cheshire Hunt which was fast closing in on some poor fox. Quite soon the small brown 'savage' streaked past followed by the dogs and the entire posse of huntsmen in full tribal gear complete with onlookers on every type of mobile donkey that could be saddled up.

The bushes at my side were soon demolished as this mob rode past and I vowed that, one day, I would get even if only for the foxes sake. If I digress here slightly I apologise, but many years later as a driver of a ten ton fire appliance en route to a small grass fire we ventured upon our Cheshire Horsemen complete with dogs - with the port and lemons out - in a narrow country lane just outside Crewe. Despite the fact that I was very nearly publicly horsewhipped shortly afterwards by my boss it was worth it as we tore through with flashing lights, two tone horns and railway sounders and gave them the full treatment. Horses reared, huntsmen swore and drinks were spilled and it is rumoured that some of the dogs have not been seen since - MAGIC! Well, back to the fishing.

Not long after the charge past a tangle on my boat rod left the reel with just 45 yds of line and, feeling this was of no use I pitched the whole effort up the bank and continued to fish with three rods. Later, with no more bites, I sorted out the line and re-cast with just twenty yards or so. The boat rod was so very 'sensitive' that the first indication of a bite was some time later when instead of the rod top pulling over the butt of that rod was banging up and down on the bank. The rod swung into action something like a line prop with rings would, but I could feel that I had hooked me something very big. It took line and I thought I had hooked a big pike. Funny, but I cannot recall the fight at all. My memory is of suddenly realising that a few feet away was one hell of a big eel.

He was now on top of the water and back pedalling with long stringy weed twisting on the line. I could not net him with the 18" butterfly landing net I had with me - the only way was to attempt to drag him up the bank. A bit crude, and in the soft margin weed the tussle really began. The added weight of weed and the accumulated rubbish plus the eel was too much for my gear and almost at my feet the line parted company with my prize. He was so beaten he just lay there in the soft margin weed for some moments. Panic prevailed. There was nothing to do but fling myself headlong into the fray, clawing biting and kicking in a frantic effort to get him on to the bank. With arms wrapped round him I tried to manhandle the eel up the steep bank only to have him drop back into the water. Again and again I tried to gain a grip on the fish but each time he ended up half in and half out of the water until I swung a boot at the beast in a final moment of desperation.

Somehow, he hung around my welly and I watched transfixed as he rose high into the air, to land some yards up in the field. At that moment I felt like a rugby player must feel as he watches his 'injury-time' penalty climb high between the posts to win the match.

I went after that eel with a burst of speed which would not have shamed a vicar on his wedding night and, with each heave, took him further into the field. (the eel, that is, not the vicar). When the fish was 250 yds from the water I reckoned he was safe enough. I emptied out my basket in one swoop and stuffed in my capture, sitting on top of the basket just to make sure. Hardly daring to look, I kept wondering was he as big as I hoped. Was I dreaming. Would I wake up. I peered through the basket lid at the fat coils of eel which lay within. What a fish - and he was all my own!

Somehow it was soon apparent that the village knew of the capture and visitors arrived in some numbers to witness the event. A celebration banquet was prepared by one lady - a huge plate of beans on toast which were very soon devoured. Later that day my match rod and Chief reel combination hooked the biggest eel which I have ever seen and unfortunately this fish broke free. But, no matter, I did not care a hoot for I had my prize.

Five o'clock arrived and the last bus pulled into the village. I climbed aboard and very soon all the unsuspecting passengers were treated to a glimpse of MY EEL, including several persons who were not at all keen on having this slimy long thing dangled some inches from their person. Fortunately, the conductor of the bus was himself an angler and he insisted that I take the eel to the Wyche Anglers for correct weighing and recording. On return to Nantwich I made my way to the 'Three Pigeons' - that hestelry being the H.Q. of the Wyche Anglers at that time. I watched, dumbstruck, as the weights were added. That eel weighed 4lb 1oz 14drms. To me, 4lbs was incredible.

Now, whenever I go to the new Wyche Clubhouse I gaze up at my fish all nicely enclosed in his glass home and I think back to that Saturday when I was 13 years old - and oh, how well I remember. No matter how big any eel I should be lucky enough to catch in the future - nothing could ever eclipse that magical moment in October '61.

Standing underneath the glass case I often relate to some poor unsuspecting bystander the full story of that capture (much to the barmans absolute dismay) and, as I tell the tale there on the other wall and staring at me with his bead eye is another eel. The words under his case read "Eel caught by D.Holman on October 1963 Weight 5lbs 6oz". But then again, chaps, that is another story.

EDITORS NOTE.

Thankyou, Dave, for an excellent article of the sort we have come to expect from you, and one which I am sure will stir many a memory among our members. Dave is fortunate in that he only has to go back to the early sixties to when he was a lad. This old'un would have to go back much further than that - to a time when sirens, underground shelters and buzz bombs were the order of the day - in order to recall when I too was a lad (for I suppose I must have been, once) But if Daves article has stirred your memory maybe you too have something to relate to us. How about it?

It may be as well to mention here that Dave Holman has written to the Chief Environmental Officer to the Shropshire County Council with regard to the fishing position at Colemere (near Ellesmere). From what Dave tells me it would appear that Stoke Angling Club allow their own members to fish that water at night. Dave wants to know if he, or others, is entitled to fish at night on purchase of the day ticket available from the local post office. As soon as we have more news you will be kept informed. Thanks, Dave.

CLOSE SEASON EEL FISHING - THE PRESENT POSITION.By A.J. SUTTON.

Every serious eel angler would like to extend his altogether too short season. Our season, short as it is, must be one of hectic activity if we are to glean all we can from it and our angling for eels takes place when there are a maximum number of anglers on the waters we fish - each enjoying his own pursuit. Oh!, that it could be otherwise, that we could fish for our difficult adversary amid quiet and little used waters. That is one of our reasons for wishing to fish for eels in the close season for coarse fish. I expect that the serious tench man would like to extend HIS season, but almost any argument in that respect is invalid as the tench are almost always busy spawning right up to the end of the close season and often well into the season itself.

Our quarry sets no such limitations and thus we can present a fair case for being allowed to fish throughout the year uninhibited by a close season which, in any case, was made for fish other than eels. Our quarry does not spawn in this country and does not even prepare for spawning while in this land. Thus, one could easily believe that we merely have to present the facts exactly as they are in order to gain close season eel fishing facilities. But, my friends, it is not as easy as one might, at first, think. The general angler is biased, and quite naturally so, against anything which would appear to contravene those restrictions imposed on HIM during HIS close season. In understanding that, we understand the other fella's point of view, and can more closely relate it to that of our own.

There are other considerations. Picture a lovely fishery, containing Coarse fish, eels and trout. Almost certainly there will be a close season for 'coarse' anglers - during which the trout man may fish for trout but the eel angler may not fish for fear of disturbing the spawning coarse fish! True, the trout man may be limited to fly only, but this does not preclude him from taking coarse fish. A glance through almost any good angling book will show several would-be record coarse fish taken on fly during the close season by either trout or salmon anglers. Two barbel, two chub, one dace and a pike. These were noteworthy because of their size, but how many are actually taken? Yet he, apparently, does not disturb the coarse fish and neither do the boats which emerge in May to tear up and down our rivers and canals.

At first, I would expect any serious angler for coarse fish to be indignant about the 'damage' done to his coarse fishery by all these close season activities. But consider this point. I do not believe that there is any permanent damage done to a fishery by either trout anglers, boats or whatever! I realise that may be difficult to prove, but no one has yet proved to the contrary. Some of the best still-water fisheries I know have more than their fair share of water skiers and associated fast motor craft, and it's been that way for years. The point is, that if trout anglers, water skiers and motor craft do no harm - then neither would a few eel anglers acting correctly. But one could, perhaps, carry on with this argument ad infinitum. So, let us take a look at the position today. OUR position.

Taking the country as a whole, we DO have more facilities for close season eel fishing than is generally recognised. O.K., so you have none on your doorstep. That applies to quite a few of our members, and so we travel. The position is much better today than it was hitherto, and while it may not be all we desire, a starting point has been established which, with a little effort, could be built on. It is entirely up to us, as eel anglers, to make certain that we press the point whenever the opportunity arises. You may feel that there is little to be done which we can do. But who, in all sincerity, thought that a few anglers could persuade the Thames Conservators to allow night fishing on that river? Who, in their right mind,

thought that we could take on a giant as mighty as the Anglian Water Authority and win much of what we sought ? But we did, and we know now that all it requires is a little effort and a lot of tenacity - together with a reasonable case.

As I say, we do have close season eel fishing even though you might have to travel, but you must seek it out. No one is going to rush to you or go out of their way to help you to know where you may fish for eels in the close season - apart from this Club that is, and we will help you all we can but you must still help yourselves and your fellow eel anglers. In this article I include any relevant papers which I may have to hand. There are omissions I know, but if you can help to put that right by sending the fishery byelaws for your area, then please do so. We will publish them. Set out below are details of what is allowed in the various areas. They were sent to me by our Chairman Brian Crawford. He has done more than most to attempt to find out the current position in the areas quoted. Study the details, so that you know just what you may or may not do in your area.

THE OVERALL PICTURE.

1. A.W.A. - - - - - refer to copy of AWA byelaws in this article.
2. NW.W.A. - - - - - No restrictions.
3. S.T.W.A. - - - - - No restrictions proposed - byelaws not yet accepted.
4. W.N.W.D.A. - - - - - No restrictions in areas of former Clwyd, Dee and Wye river authorities.
5. Northumbrian W.A. - - - - - No restrictions in enclosed waters.
6. Yorkshire W.A. - - - - - No restrictions in enclosed waters.
7. S.W.W.A. - - - - - ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Please see next page (Page 19)
8. W.W.A. - - - - - No eel fishing.
9. T.W.A. - - - - - No eel fishing.
10. S.W.A. - - - - - No eel fishing.

You will see from the above details that, out of ten water authority areas, in only three is there absolutely no close season eel fishing. Now that's not too bad is it ? You might note that we do now have some authoritative weight of opinion which we can use at some time in the future in order to 'persuade' the remaining three to allow the same facilities as the rest.

Water, Water everywhere - but with nowhere to fish. That's about it, so what do we do ? What the Club has to do, without delay, is to compile a list of the waters where we are certain we may fish in the close season for eels. That is not an easy job if it is left to one man. THE CLUB means all of YOU. If each of our members could get cracking and find out about two or three waters in his area where we may fish for eels we will be off to a thundering good start. Here's an example. In Norfolk and Suffolk (covered by the A.W.A.) there are several hundred enclosed waters. Some of these are gravel pits and are not leased by any Club. Yet do we know of any where we may fish in the close season for eels - WE DO NOT. I will not pretend that all of our members wish to travel to Norfolk to fish, but if we get details of a few waters maybe three or four members would. That is what this Club is all about - helping each other to further our sport. Carry on in that vein and we ALL benefit - sooner or later.

You will see on the next page that Brian has again been doing his bit - on behalf of you ALL. Brian wrote to R.S.J. Linfield PhD of the A.W.A. to ask what the position was relative to those enclosed waters controlled by the Authority. The reply clearly shows some waters about which we could enquire further of the Clubs leasing the waters. If we do nothing we simply get nowhere - fast. Yet it seems to me that we may, just possibly, get several members enquiring about the same water. That we do not want. So if you intend enquiring about a given water, please contact me first for the O.K. Don't all rush - just hasten as quickly as you can.



SOUTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

CHAIRMAN - L. HILL, J.P.
MANAGING DIRECTOR - H. R. SLOCOMBE, Solicitor

3-5 BARNFIELD ROAD
EXETER, EX1 1RE
TEL: EXETER 50861 (STD 0392)
TELEX: 42791 SWWAHQ G

G.H. BIELBY, B.Sc.
Director of Fisheries and Recreation

Your Ref:
Our Ref: 226/8/PRM/JEB

When telephoning
please ask for: Mr. Muggeridge

Date: 10 January 1979

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter regarding eel fishing in our region the answers to the points you raised are :-

Fishery Districts Camel, Fowey, Tamar and Plym
(Ex Cornwall River Authority)

- (1) No statutory close season for coarse fish, Owners may however impose their own.
- (2) One rod at a time only.

Fishery Districts Avon, Axe, Dart, Exe, Teign, Taw and Torridge
(Ex Devon River Authority)

- (1) Close season for coarse fish including eels, 15 March to 15 June inclusive.
- (2) No restriction on number of rods.

All Districts

No restrictions on hook size or bait for eels
No restrictions on transferring dead fish for bait. Live fish must not be transferred.

I trust this answers your queries.

Yours faithfully,

P.R. Muggeridge
Information Officer
Fisheries and Recreation

B. Crawford, Esq.,
National Anquilla Club,
129 Benland,
Bretton,
Peterborough.
PE3 8EE

Anglian Water Authority



G. LEIGH STURGES
Director of Administration

Diploma House
Grammar School Walk
Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE 18 6NZ
Telephone: Huntingdon (STD 0480) 56181

OUR REF FGD/SLR/H423

YOUR REF

22nd December 1978

B. Crawford Esq.,
Chairman,
National Anguilla Club,
129 Benland,
Bretton,
Peterborough,
PE3 8EE.

Dear Mr. Crawford,


Eel Fishing

Dr. Linfield asks me to reply to the last paragraph of your letter of the 21st December addressed to him.

The following enclosed waters are let to the clubs indicated with the right to fish for eels with rod and line. Permission to fish would obviously have to be obtained from the appropriate secretary but the lease includes provision for the clubs to grant day tickets for angling.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Hyde Lane Gravel Pit
near Buckingham | Buckingham and District A.A. |
| 2. Manea Borrow Pit
Cambs. | Manea Angling Club |
| 3. Roswell Borrow Pit
near Ely, Cambs. | British Sugar Corporation
Angling Club |
| 4. Mepal Borrow Pit,
Cambs. | Saffron Walden Angling Club |

Yours sincerely,


F.G. Davy,
Assistant Director (Estates and Recreation).

Anglian Water Authority

Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975

Anglian Water Authority (fisheries) Order 1976

FISHERIES BYELAWS



River Division Offices

Essex
Rivers House, Springfield Road,
Chelmsford CM2 6JN
Tel: Chelmsford 64721

Great Ouse
Gt. Ouse House, Clarendon Road,
Cambridge CB2 2BL
Tel: Cambridge 61561

Lincolnshire
50 Wide Bargate, Boston PE21
6SA
Tel: Boston 65661

Norfolk & Suffolk
Yare House, 62/64 Thorpe Road,
Norwich NR1 1SA
Tel: Norwich 615161

Welland & Nene
North Street, Oundle,
Peterborough PE8 4AS
Tel: Oundle 3701

The Anglian Water Authority in exercise of their powers under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 and of all other powers them enabling hereby make the following byelaws:

1. Application

These byelaws shall apply to the Authority's Fisheries Area as defined by the Anglian Water Authority Constitution Order 1973.

2. Interpretation

(a) In these byelaws unless the context otherwise requires:

"Authority" means the Anglian Water Authority;

"Fisheries Area" means the Fisheries Area of the Authority as defined in The Anglian Water Authority Constitution Order 1973;

"enclosed water" means any lake, pond or reservoir into which fish cannot pass from a river, other than a river flowing thereto;

"keepnet" means a net with meshes of non-metallic material, not less than 1.5 metres in length, if circular fitted with stretching rings or frames not less than 35cm in diameter or if rectangular not less than 35cm by 25cm such stretching rings or frames to be not less than 15cm and not more than 30cm apart, the meshes to measure not less than 5mm and not more than 15mm in extension from knot to knot or (if the material is knotless) having holes of not less than 2mm and not more than 15mm across at the widest point forming not less than three-quarters of the total surface area of the net, all measurements to be made when the keepnet is wet.

(b) The Interpretation Act, 1889, shall apply to these byelaws as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

3. Close Seasons

(i) The annual close season shall be as follows:

(a) salmon, migratory trout, brown trout and rainbow trout not in enclosed waters not to be taken with rod and line in the period between 28th September and the following 1st March.

(b) salmon, migratory trout, brown trout and rainbow trout not in enclosed waters not to be taken with an instrument other than rod and line in the period between 30th September and the following 1st April.

(c) brown trout and rainbow trout in enclosed waters not to be taken with rod and line in the period between 29th October and the following 1st April.

(ii) In that part of the Fisheries Area which comprises the catchments of the Rivers Ancholme and Witham and of all other waters discharging to the sea between Witham on the River Humber and the Witham estuary at Clay Hole, the annual close season for freshwater fish shall be dispensed with in relation to any lake, pond or reservoir into which or from which fish cannot pass from or to any other water.

4. Weekly Close Time

The weekly close time for salmon and migratory trout shall be the period between 06.00 hours on Sunday and 24.00 hours on the following day.

5. Taking Fish

Any person who without the previous consent in writing of the Authority takes or removes more than two fish in any one day shall be guilty of an offence provided nevertheless that this byelaw shall not prevent a person:

(a) taking more than that number of fish if the fish are immediately returned alive to the water, or if the fish are retained in

a keepnet and released to the water alive within 5 metres of the place at which they were taken as quickly as possible after the person taking them has ceased to fish, or after the fish have been weighed in accordance with any recognised practice;

(b) taking in any one day fish not exceeding ten in number (excluding minnows and bleak) of which no fish may exceed 20cm in length (measured from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail) or minnows and bleak for his own use for live or dead bait fishing in the water from which the fish were taken.

But this byelaw shall not apply to brown trout and rainbow trout in enclosed waters and to migratory fish and eels.

6. Eels

(i) A person shall be permitted to fish for eels with rod and line during the annual close season for freshwater fish

(a) in any lake, pond or reservoir into which or from which fish cannot pass from or to any other water provided that no hook of a gape less than 13mm is used and that only sea fish or chemically preserved fish are used as bait.

(b) in any water specified in column 1 of the Schedule to these byelaws seaward of the point of demarcation specified in relation thereto in column 2 thereof the national grid reference whereof is specified in column 3.

(c) in any other waters provided that no hook or other metal appliance is attached to the line.

(ii) A person shall be permitted to fish for eels with rod and line during the annual close season for rainbow trout.

7. Prohibited Methods of Fishing

Any person shall be guilty of an offence if without the previous consent in writing of the Authority he

(a) trolls or trails from a boat any bait or lure unless it is attached to a rod and line and the boat is drifting or propelled only by oars;

(b) fishes with rod and line for salmon or trout during the annual close season for freshwater fish with any lure or bait other than an artificial wet or dry fly;

(c) leaves unattended a rod and line with the bait or hook thereof in the water;

(d) fishes with rod and line with any form of gorge bait;

(e) fishes at any one time with more than two rods and lines;

(f) uses with rod and line in any water any fish as live or dead bait which have not been taken from that water provided that this shall not prevent the use of sea fish as dead bait or the use of any fish which has been chemically preserved.

8. Use of Nets and Other Instruments

It shall be an offence to use for the purpose of taking salmon, trout, freshwater fish and eels any instrument other than is permitted by this byelaw in relation thereto, namely:

For salmon, trout, freshwater fish and eels:

A rod and line and as an auxiliary thereto a landing net, gaff (consisting of a plain metal hook without a barb) or tailed.

For salmon and migratory trout in tidal waters or in the sea:

A net provided that the dimensions of the mesh are not less than 3cm in extension from knot to knot (the measurement to be made on each side thereof) or 12cm measured round each mesh, the measurements to be made when the net is wet.

THE SCHEDULE

Column 1 Watercourse	Column 2 Point of Demarcation	Column 3 National Grid Ref.
Mar Dyke	Confluence with River Thames	TQ 548786
Crouch	Battlesbridge Bridge	TQ 780947
Chelmer/Blackwater Canal	Heybridge Basin	TL 872069
Blackwater	Beeleigh Weir	TL 840084
Colne	East Mill, Colchester	TM 007256
Stour	Cattawade Barrage	TM 101331
Great Ouse Relief Channel	Tail Sluice	TF 605174
Middle Level Main Drain	St. Germans Pumping Station	TF 588143
Tidal Great Ouse	Stowbridge Bridge	TF 602070
Ancholme	South Ferryby Sluice	SE 975211
Freshney	Flottergate	TA 267095
Louth Navigation	Tetney Lock	TA 344024
Great Eau	Saltfleet Haven Sea Doors	TF 456935
Steeping River & Wainfleet Relief Channel	Wainfleet Clough Sea Doors	TF 543597
Hobhole Drain	Hobhole Outfall Pumping Station	TF 364398
Maud Foster Drain	Maud Foster Sluice	TF 336431
Witham	Grand Sluice	TF 324446
South Forty Foot Drain	Black Sluice Pumping Station	TF 326428
Burn	National Trust Mill	TF 836436
Stiffkey	Coast Road Bridge	TF 986437
Glaven	Cley Sluice	TG 044438
Mun	Mundesley Mill	TG 315365
Bure (inc. Ant and Thurne)	Five Mile House	TG 474101
Yare	Six Mile House	TG 455034
Waveney	Seven Mile House	TG 458015
Blyth	Blyford Bridge	TM 425765
Alde	Snape Sluice	TM 391576
Deben	Melton Mill	TM 296514
Gipping	Velocity Control Structure	TM 168434
Belstead Brook	Bourne Sluice	TM 161419
Wang	Wolsey Bridge	TM 472769
Minsmere River	East Bridge Sluice	TM 453664
Thorpe Hundred	Thorpe Meare Sluice	TM 465595
Hundred River	Benacre Pump	TM 906845
Nene	A47 Road Bridge, Guyhirne	TF 397030
Welland	Lower Locks, Spalding	TF 268240
Glen	Seas End Sluice, Surfleet	TF 282293

For eels in any waters specified in column 1 of the Schedule to these byelaws seaward of the point of demarcation specified in relation thereto in column 2 thereof the national grid reference whereof is specified in column 3:

An eel trap, hive, fyke net or such other instrument as may be authorised by the Authority in relation to any person or persons.

For eels in any other waters:

(i) An eel trap or hive not exceeding 1.2 metres in length with meshes not of metallic material

(ii) A Dutch fyke net not exceeding 1 metre in diameter

(iii) An eel set

(iv) An eel rack or trap at or in connection with a weir or mill.

9. Prohibited Fishing

Any person who fishes with any instrument other than a rod and line for salmon or migratory trout in those tidal and coastal waters south of a line drawn due West to East through the seaward end of Walton-on-the-Naze Pier shall be guilty of an offence.

10. Marking and Numbering of Nets

It shall be an offence for any person who has been supplied by the Authority with a label for the purpose of identifying a licensed instrument to use that instrument without the label being attached thereto in a conspicuous place.

11. Exemptions

Nothing in these byelaws shall apply to any person who carries out any act for scientific or fisheries management purposes with the previous consent in writing of the Authority and in accordance with any conditions imposed by the Authority in that consent.

12. Revocation of Byelaws

Byelaws made under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Acts 1923 to 1972 hitherto in force in any part of the Fisheries Area are hereby revoked.

Fishing in Anglia

During the year the region's first comprehensive guide to "Fishing in Anglia" was produced. Its 96 pages include maps, photographs and details of waters, fisheries staff, angling clubs, plus articles and other useful information for both coarse and trout fishermen.

The Guide has attracted much favourable comment and can be obtained from tackle dealers price 65p or from Peter Roddis Productions Ltd, Adpover House, Nicholas Lane, St. Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs PE17 4PW post included at 80p.

Please remember that in any area where close season eel fishing is allowed YOU DO NOT have an automatic right so to fish a particular water. Permission must be sought from the owners or the lessees of such a water. If the decision is NO then that decision must be honoured - or peaceful persuasion used in order to gain permission. In any borderline case it may be that an official letter from the Anguilla Club will do the trick. In which case contact either our Chairman or myself and we will do the necessary. If an owner or Club secretary is a little doubtful, you might mention that you can get the Anguilla Club to contact him to put his mind at ease.

Now I know that I do not have to say this to you. It is just for the record. If you are fortunate and get permission to fish a water, in the close season, for eels make certain that you comply with any local rules laid down. Do nothing which might lead to your losing the water. That will not help you and it certainly would not help our case one little bit.

In certain instances you will see that eel fishing is allowed in the close season only by means of BABBING. O.K, so you've had your laugh. Now consider this BABBING lark a little more. I put it to you that the Anguilla Club can put this method to good use. Here is what I mean. Member X lives within reach of a canal or river teeming with eels of all sizes (mostly small). He also has lined up one or two lakes or pits which he knows are capable of producing very large eels. The only trouble is that in these lakes or pits the eels are mighty thin on the ground. That is to say that there are very few of them and our member might spend half the summer fishing hard without taking a fish.

Now, three or four of our members get together with member X for a couple of nights BABBING for eels on said canal or river. They do so at a very pleasant time of the year - probably in May - transferring all the eels so taken to one or more of the waters chosen by member X. The eels would suffer no harm at all and the water chosen would benefit greatly from such an injection of eels. Said water would probably receive more eels in one night than it would get naturally in several years. A good get together with your mates, plenty of time for a jar or two, or more, of ale. Not too much gear to lug around and none of the deadly serious hustle and bustle of a more normal eel fishing trip. You will have had a good time and probably a good laugh but, more than that, you will have helped member X and the furtherance of our sport.

That the method known as BABBING can produce eels there is no question, and I do have experience of the method. My experience was gained mostly in Norfolk - on the Broads and the Norfolk drains and dykes - all of which have eels in abundance. The eels taken are mostly small but can be of a pound and a half. I have taken upwards of thirty eels in just one retrieval of the BABBING gear. Hundreds of worms (lobs) are required and a good pre-baiting can be very beneficial. Many a farmworker used to double his weekly income by means of just one night's eel BABBING.

However, this article was not intended as a treatise on babbling for eels so I will not continue further at this time. If interest is shown, I will gladly pass on to you the benefit of my experience in the subject. Suffice to say that there are several things which, if known, can be a short cut to success.

I hope that those members who enquired of me about close season eel fishing now have the information they wanted. If any point is not clear, do drop me a line in the form of a 'Letter to the Editor' and I will do my utmost to be of help. I will be bringing up the subject of babbling at our Spring General Meeting to see if we can get something organised, so please do give the matter a little thought.

I wish to thank Brian Crawford for his co-operation in the collection of factual material for this article and I trust that you have enjoyed reading same. The Anglian Water Authorities byelaws, on the previous page, are reproduced by courtesy of the AWA.

SURFACE AND MID-WATER EELING.

By Kevin Richmond.

For the past couple of seasons I have been toying with the idea of fishing baits off the bottom for eels. Conclusive proof that eels do feed near to the surface came to me during the middle of the 1978 season.

During a session at one of my local pits the weather deteriorated so rapidly that any form of eel fishing was out of the question. As a result, I reeled in my baits leaving them half in - half out of the water with the rods 'on ratchet'. In the morning I went to pick up my rods to find, to my amazement, two eels hanging on to my deadbaits. They weighed in at 1:13 and 2:06. Ex member Keith Sykes had four eels into the 4lb class during 1978 on baits fished off the bottom. With an average weight of 4:04 that cannot be had by any standards. One of my local waters has produced far more eels on float fished live and dead baits during the day (by pike anglers) than are ever taken during the night. These fish are not small, either, with a median weight of around 3:04.

There is no doubt in my mind that 'off bottom' eeling will produce fish under conditions which are totally against bottom fishing or unsuitable for bottom fished baits. Whether moonlit nights encourage eels to feed near to the surface is something that can only be proven by constructive effort from our membership during 1979. Virtually every other species of fish feed off the bottom, so why not eels? For some reason the eel anglers of today have become brainwashed into believing that eels only feed on baits which are laying on the bottom!

Arthur Sutton asked for ideas on tackle set-ups to use for midwater/surface eel fishing. As a result I submit a diagram of the tackle set-up that I used during 1978. From the three sessions on which I used it I had five runs, somehow missing all of them. However, during the winter I have been working on what should be a superior hooking arrangement and if it proves to be successful during the coming season I will get our Editor to publish the details in a later Bulletin.

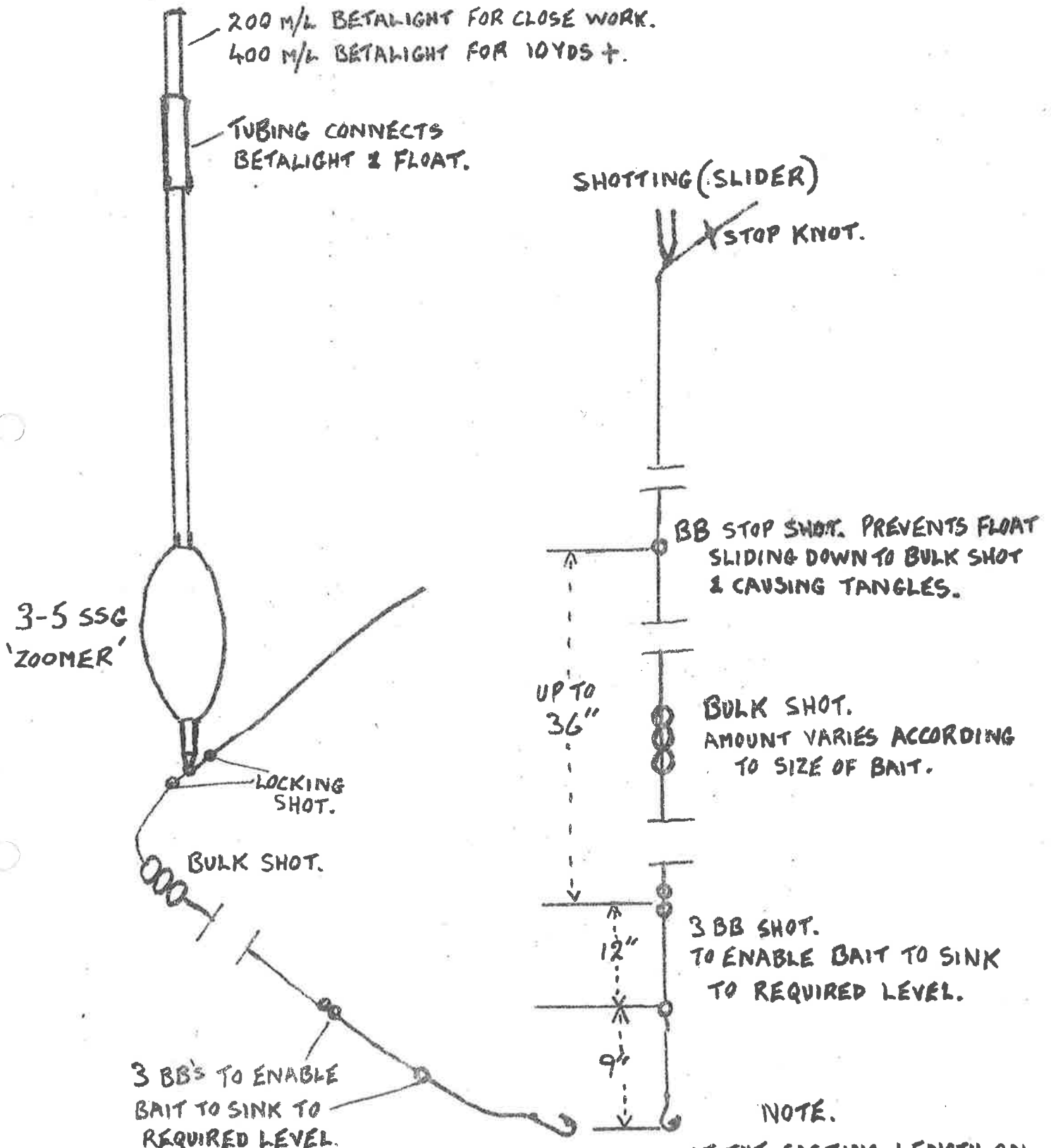
Please see diagram on next page.

Editors note. Thankyou Kevin. It seems that several of you have been spurred into action after reading MOONLIGHT EEL FISHING in the previous Bulletin. I have heard from many of you on that subject but in a form which, although very complimentary, I could not use in the Bulletin without some difficulty. I would ask you, please, if you do have something valid to say on a particular subject to write same as either an article in itself, or as a 'Letter to the Editor'.

Your interest prompted me to write the further piece on this subject, which you will find in this issue (page Twenty Five). I do hope your interest continues as I know that we can ALL gain a lot from a continued JOINT excersise along these lines.

Letter to the Editor.

In a recent letter to me, ex member Keith Sykes asked me to pass on to all of you his best wishes for a very successful season and for the continued progress of the Club in the future.



NOTE.
 IF THE CASTING LENGTH ON THE SLIDING FLOAT RIG IS GREATER THAN 60" APPROX:
 'A' TANGLES WILL OCCUR.
 'B' DISTANCE WILL BE LIMITED.

FURTHER THOUGHTS ON 'NEAR SURFACE' EEL FISHING.A.J.SUTTON.

When I wrote my article on angling for eels under brightly moonlit conditions I kept the article as short as possible. That I did not take the subject further was for two reasons. First, I did not know what sort of a response to expect. Indeed, I hardly dared hope for a response of any description, knowing the lethargic nature of our members during the colder months. Secondly, all I tried to do was to promote interest in the subject and to provide 'food for thought'. Neither do I feel entitled to try to tell you more of a subject about which I know as little as the next man.

It does seem that I was successful in what I set out to do. Your interest HAS been aroused and I hope that, together, we can continue useful discussion and experiment until 'food for thought' turns into solid achievement. Many of you have praised my article. Very nice. But praise, unless accompanied by your own thoughts and ideas, does nothing except boost my ego. Two or three of you, at the time of writing this piece, have put forward ideas which are very welcome to us all.

At the same time, while illustrations of tackle set-ups are helpful in that they promote ideas of what we MAY need, tacklewise, there are very much broader aspects about which we should give serious consideration. I dare say that most of you will agree - Anguilla is a difficult subject when angled for at long range and on the bottom. How much more difficult then he(or she) will be when fished for at close range and near to the surface! Imagine, the eel at or near the surface will be hunting by means of scent, detection of vibration and, to a much larger degree than when on the bottom, by sight. We may argue as to which of these senses the eel will use most but the fact remains that whichever it is, the eel will surely be more readily aware of what WE are doing.

Cups of tea brewed right at the waterside are very nice, socially. They may have little effect on our quarry while fishing at some distance on the bottom - although even that is arguable. Tea parties and the like, and car doors slamming shut, will be things to avoid. Even worse will be your walking to and fro on a shallow gravel bank or beach. If you don't think that fish can sense these things ask yourself - have you ever spooked basking carp by slamming shut your car door? Yes, of course you have, even at 100 yards. Well, eels are even more sensitive! Consideration of these things alone will, I feel, dictate what sort of tackle we will use. I do not think that I would care to sit at the waters edge constantly re-casting a bait which persists in drifting back to my feet. I would prefer, and have more confidence in, a stationary bait. Again, I would choose to sit well back among the bushes and if I used a bite alarm that is where the alarm unit would be as well, even going to the extent of placing the alarm unit on a cushion of some sort.

It may well be that ones fishing position relative to the moon itself will be of great importance, for we will wish to avoid throwing shadows across the water. I can foresee that a 'hide' of some sort could be of great advantage when fishing from a rather open bank, or if the space behind you was limited in some way.

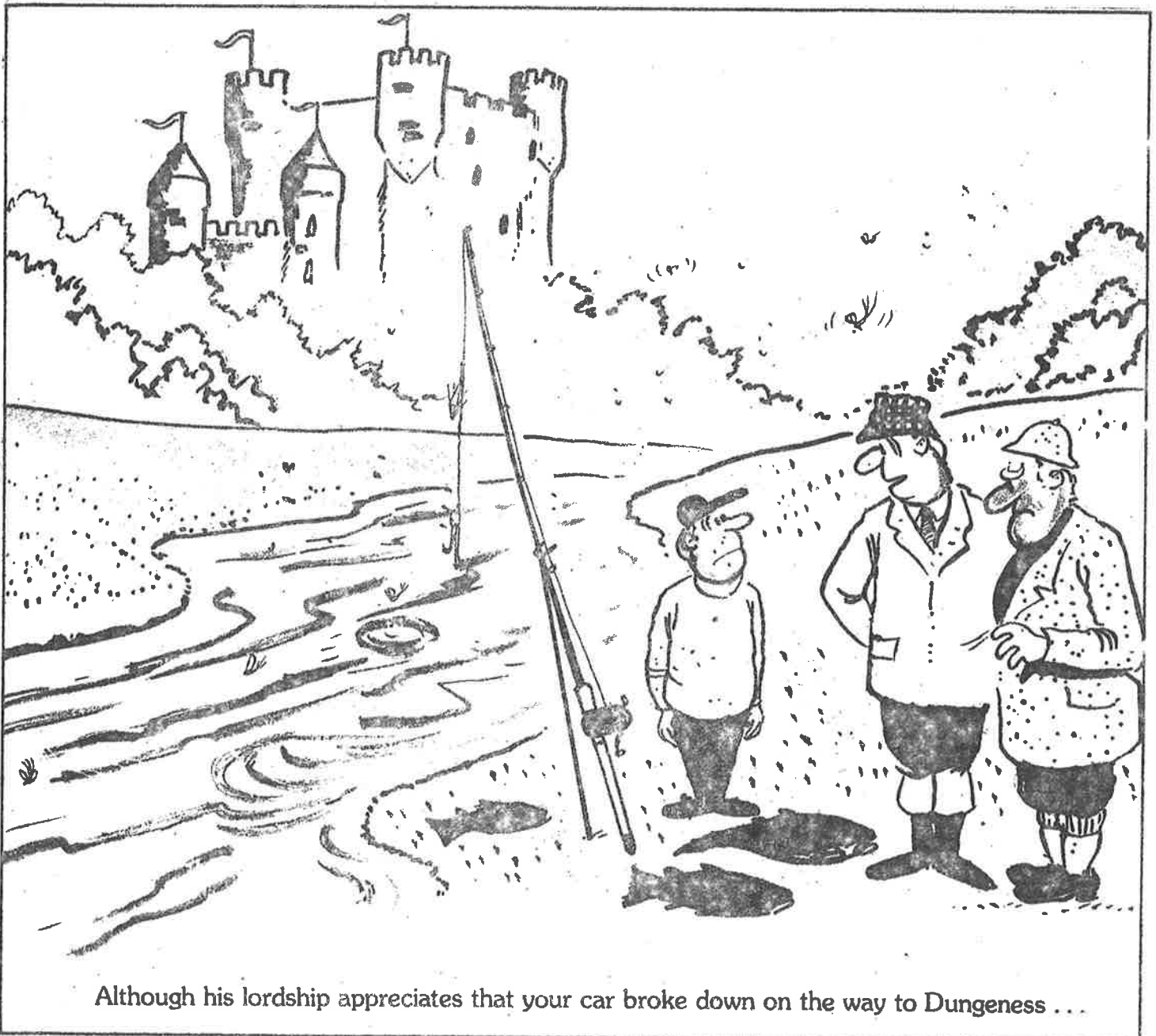
Hooking the eels which will take our baits at the surface is a problem which we must overcome. A single hook tackle such as we use normally for bottom fishing is not very effective(as Kevin might tell you). From the experience gained by Dave Goodrum and myself at Lake Helen I can tell you that, on taking the bait, the eel streaks away fast and right back down to the bottom. We reached the conclusion that by the time the eels had reached the bottom they were aware of the tackle they were dragging around and, as a consequence, never turned the bait. We therefore lost more eels than we actually hooked. From this, it would appear obvious that a more effective way of mounting the bait, with two or even three hooks, is required. Also, the amount of gear we can ask the eel to drag around must be kept to a minimum. I rather like the bubble float in that respect. One can fill it with water so that it just BARELY supports the bait. Even a small one can weigh as much as a half ounce lead or bomb and aids distance casting.

It may be interesting to note that at Lake Helen more eels were taken on suspended dead baits, even though the proportion of runs was far higher when using live bait.

In fact, at about the time when we lost the facility to fish there we were coming to grips with the problems associated with suspended dead baits. Going to great lengths to ensure that the dead baits were presented naturally - on an even keel and NOT belly upwards - did certainly pay, as did my two hook terminal tackle.

I do rather like Brians idea of using pilchard oil on the bottom under a bait fished near the surface, and it will be of great interest to see if oil used in that fashion is effective. I somehow feel that it will be. Most certainly the oil does not disperse while at the bottom, but makes its way rapidly to the surface where it then disperses.

Well there you are. More 'food for thought'. Pin the ENGAGED notice to the bathroom door and start experimenting - or sit down and write your piece for the Bulletin. Do what you like - but don't let this subject die.



A LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Editor and Fellow Members,

I would like to convey my feelings of apprehension about the proposed setting up of a National Anguilla Club Social and Distress Fund. It is the latter part which bothers me.

You all know that I have always been a strong advocate for a strong Social side to our Club and I think a National Anguilla Club Social Fund would be a nice idea. But I feel strongly that we would be stepping on dangerous and delicate ground if we include a distress fund.

I say this, Gentlemen, because I feel that 99.9% of our membership live very private lives. They are proud, and very capable of sorting out for themselves any financial difficulty which most of us find ourselves in from time to time.

We could scare off members and future members with this Distress Fund idea. For all means let us have a Social fund for the occasional bunch of flowers etc and let us continue to help the disabled anglers. Yes, what a great idea. Wonderful.

But, frankly speaking Gentlemen, I find the idea of a Club Distress Fund most offensive.

Yours Sincerely, Ernie Orme.

Note From the Editor.

Kevin Richmond writes in exactly the same vein as does Ernie Orme, perhaps more strongly. I do agree with both. I must point out that the subject mentioned, that of a Social and Distress Fund, was put forward by the Chairman as a point for further discussion. That will undoubtedly take place at our Spring General Meeting and, of course, it will be up to those present to decide for or against.

I must also point out that as proposer of the original idea to have a Social Officer it was never my intention to have any sort of separate fund. The Club funds are the property of us all, to be used as the members decide for the purposes of running an efficient Club and furthering our aims.

The Social Officer, as was my intent when proposing same, should have an authoritative say in the more Social side of Club trips etc. He could be a co-ordinating and organising influence in many of the things we do outside of actually catching eels. Dare I say it, but he could even be influential in organising a trip to parts we are never likely to go to if we follow normal Club routine. The Loch Ness trip did not produce a record eel, but without that trip the Club would not exist today but that trip 'made' the Club and assured its longevity.

I do hope that you will give the idea of the Social and Distress fund some thought prior to our meeting so that at that meeting you can have your say. If you do not like or agree with the idea we want you to say so, not just remain quiet.

A.J.S.