



The National Anguilla Club

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# BULLETIN

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The National Anguilla Club, 1973.

EDITORIAL.

Back in the old routine! I used to dread each Bulletin, as Editor, for I knew I would have to scrounge round for material, and like as not wind up by writing half of it myself. Things have changed, it seems, and it was a most welcome surprise to resume this post and find a goodly heap of material ready for publication. Keep it up, and the Bulletin will become as regular as clockwork.

It is also so long since I wrote an editorial that I have forgotten how to do it. So instead, I will give the gist of a conversation I was involved in down at my local - The Basket and Gumboot - the other night. I spotted this character with a couple of items under his arm which looked familiar. My gentle enquiry evinced the following reply:-

'Wot have I got? I've got the pink'un and the green'un, mate. I gets them every Wednesday before I comes down the pub, so I can discuss the results with my mates, like. The pink'un cost 7p, while the green'un only costs 6p. But there's more colour pics of the big stars in the pink'un, so I reckon it's worth the extra 1p.'

'Eh't it your round, Bert? Bloody 'ell, look 'ere, Readings' gone down to the third division. I knew it would happen, didn't I say so, Bert? Stands to reason, you cant stay in the big time if you lose all your matches. They want to sack that bloody manager and get someone who knows what its all about. And spend some money on a few big names. Tight fisted B- - - s, never pay a penny more than they have to.

'Cheers, Let's have a look at the middle pages. Usually something good there. What's this ? France crushes England before biggest gate of the season. Stupid bleeders! Want to stop squabbling about who's going to be in the team and get down to some serious training. Stands to reason, a chap cant put 'is mind to it when he never knows whether he is in or out. What we want is one of them disciplinary committees to stop all this bloody nonsense. And some Government money. Can't get a world class team without proper facilities. Look at the Yanks, and the Ruskies. They got money. You ought to see some of the places I have to go to. Last week I had nettles. NETTLES! And a sodding great tree.'

'Look 'ere, Bert. Birmingham's got another bloke loitering about their grounds at night. Taking 'im to Court. About time, I say. Bloody vandals, be smashing up trains next. Bring back National service I say. And the birch.

Poor old Fred, had to give it up. Doctors orders, it says 'ere. Still, you got to be fit to stay at the top these days. Not like these bloody pleasure blokes. Ruined another match last week, they did, with their daft goings on. Pleasure!, I'd give 'em pleasure if I laid me 'ands on 'em! Core! What a smashing bit of stuff. Wouldn't mind getting me equipment from her. Or giving her some, eh, Bert? Says here she wants to become a model. You can come and model for me any time, me old darling.'

'You know your trouble, you've got a dirty mind. Anyway, sup up you dozy B- - -, it's your round.'

Oh, Isaac, what are they talking about? Did you ever dream it would come to this?.

Alan Hawkins.

N.A.C. EXPEDITION. 1974.

by A.J.SUTTON.

Several members have queried whether we have further discussed a Club expedition for next year. So far, we have not, apart from what was said at our Spring meeting. I am sure that we all understand that, for an excercise of this nature to go without a hitch, much careful planning must be done well in advance of the trip. Another important point is to know that such a trip is definately on, so that we can arrange our holidays to suit.

One of the very first things we ought to know is exactly who is interested in such a venture. It may well be that there are not enough members interested to make the trip worthwhile. Assuming there ARE enough members interested, we can then confine our discussion to those members only - so cutting out a lot of unnecessary work. This will also mean a faster developement of the scheme. Those interested will probably be plagued with a host of questionnaire forms, and of course these must be answered promptly. Any one member who delays his reply for two weeks or so can upset the whole affair, or, at least, make the planning of the expedition difficult indeed. We ran into this problem with the Loch Ness expedition and had to drop two members who had earlier shown an interest.

I hope that this article creates interest, and that it leads to a further discussion on the subject. A few pointers from the Loch Ness trip may prove of some value here.

Dr Terry Coulson first mentioned the idea of a Club Expedition. We found nine members interested, and, after much writing and several meetings, the plans were finalised. We decided the venue would be Loch Ness, whereupon Terry got cracking to organise things at that end, while I arranged such things as transport, meeting places etc. It had been decided that for transport we would require a minibus, while for accomodation we opted for two caravans on the Lochfour site at the Northernmost end of Loch Ness. One caravan a four berth and the other a three berth. We found we could obtain food and fresh milk at the site, so very little food was taken with us. Geoff Fletcher elected to drive the minibus all the way to Scotland and back. He collected the vehicle late on the Friday afternoon, and by seven thirty had picked up all the members and we were on our way. We stopped overnight at the Middlesborough home of Geoff's parents, sleeping on the settee and some makeshift beds. As secretary, I was afforded the luxury of a bedroom to myself, which led to a few choice remarks the following morning. A mixed grille was served by Mrs Fletcher for breakfast, and we were on our way again. Arriving at the camp we found everything well and truly laid on. I will not dwell on the results of the trip, for such is not the purpose of this article. An uneventful drive home, during which we had a 'whip round' for petrol as our original estimate was a little wrong. But not much.

Home again, we met to decide what had been gained by the venture. Very important was the spirit of comradeship which had been fostered between the members, (although I could never forgive Geoff's awful cooking). That, however, was to be expected. At the top of the list we placed the way in which problems were overcome. And problems there were, in plenty, the like of which none of us had encountered before.

After each night, and a sleep the following morning, we had met each day to discuss what problems we had run up against during the night, and what steps to take to overcome them. The lessons learnt from this are standing us

(continued on page 58)

Page 57 pictures the members on the Loch Ness Expedition.

Left to Right;- Les Hudson, Bob Rolph, Geoff Fletcher, Steve Edwards, Terry Coulson(Dr) , Jim Gibbinson and the ever youthful Arthur Sutton.

Who could summon up smiles like that if they were not genuinely very happy ?

THE MEMBERS ON THE LOCH NESS TRIP

Left to right:- Les Hudson, Bob Rolph, Geoff Fletcher (who always had his knife into Terry), Steve Edwards, Terry Coulson, Jim Gibbinson, and yours truly, Arthur Sutton (complete with scottish tweed hat).



in good stead even today. And that, I should venture to suggest, is the most important feature of such a trip.

We decided, in retrospect, that the caravans were an expensive luxury, and that good tents would serve us adequately for any future trip. I am sure those on the Castle Howard trip would agree.

The whole expedition, including transport and caravans, but excluding food, had cost each of us just over ten pounds.

I would remind you that, at the Spring meeting, it was tentatively suggested that we may be able to subsidise members from Club funds. It may well be that we can explore this further, bearing in mind that the revenue gained in angling press articles on the trip can be paid back into Club funds.

I may be biased in favour of an expedition of this nature, for the memory of the 1965 Loch Ness trip is still very strong with me, but I am sure the whole Club benefits from such a trip.

If you are at all interested, then answer the questionnaire enclosed without delay, and let us know whether such a trip is possible.

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#### Editors' Comment

I am glad to see so interesting a subject as a possible Club expedition has not been forgotten, and I look forward to a lively discussion on this topic. But speaking personally, and perhaps also sliding my chairman's hat on top of my editorial wig, I have to admit that the idea of an expedition without a definite destination in mind is rather like a Scotch and soda without the Scotch! Perhaps in the early days of this Club the actual venue didn't matter all that much; as I mentioned in a recent newsletter, eel fishing may have been more of an adventure then, and any outing a welcome excuse for a new group to savour the delights of a communal expedition.

The benefits that Arthur mentioned are undoubtedly true and valuable. But I would submit that a tremendous spirit of camaraderie always develops on Anguilla Club outings, irrespective of the location - it is a characteristic of the Club. And problems to be solved also have a way of appearing independent of venue - those who survived the last night at Whitemere this year will appreciate that there is no need to travel to Loch Ness to experience a great deal of adversity. Indeed, I am still putting my broly back together!

Regrettably, I feel that an expedition to some wild and romantic mountain lake is no longer enough; at the end of the day it must offer the prospect of eels bigger and better than we can obtain at home. And with member's performance ever improving (with certain notable exceptions, such as myself), and with members becoming ever more mobile and travelling greater distances to their sport, this is asking a great deal. Loch Ness was an admirable choice of venue - lonely, wild and romantic - for a boy scout! But for eel fishing it was a disaster, and I suspect most Scottish Lochs would be the same or worse.

So my feeling is this. First find a suitable destination, then ask members whether they want to go. The idea of an expedition looking for somewhere to go appeals to me little; I have the feeling it could easily turn into an accident in search of somewhere to happen.

THE CLUB OUTING

by S. Hope

I arrived to a welcome of many handshakes and just as many smiles from faces that I don't often get a chance to see. This is it, the Anguilla Club outing, and these are the men who make up this skillful team of fishermen.

Why are we here? you may ask. I'll tell you, we are here for one reason only, and that's to catch the largest of eels, nothing else, just eels.

We look at each other silently; which of us is going to catch that unseen monster?, will it be my turn? I think to myself. I look around again and see some of the most experienced eel fishermen in the country, now gathered together in a small group cracking jokes and, what's this, having a sing-song, what manner of fishermen are they? Will it be that big bloke in the middle whose rod will bend with the muscle of a mighty eel? Surely not, with a voice like that! Will it be him?, or that one over there stood in the bushes whistling to himself?, or will it be me? God!, will it be me?

For the first time I look at the water. Hell, what a size! Must be 60 acres or more! Where will I start?, where will I fish?, how shall I fish?

All these things are going through my mind when suddenly a hand touches my shoulder and makes me jump; I turn and see the friendly face of Ernie Orme with a mug of tea in his hand.

"Come on Steve, and have a cuppa," he says.

I suddenly realise I am one of them, and join in with the laughter and songs.

For we are all here for the same reason.

At last the Club trip's come. At last.....

\*

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

by R. Brown.

We arrived at Welney on a typical August evening. The evening mist was beginning to rise over the fields, and as we staggered the mile to our swims we thought of the huge eels we would soon be bent into, not of the sweat stinging our eyes, and the loads of blankets and cookers piled high on our backs. We stopped to scrounge a few livebaits from pleasure anglers along the banks, and the sight of their bulging keepnets gave us a preview of the tremendous food potential of the water for predatory fish.

Totally exhausted and dripping with perspiration we arrived at our chosen pitch. We built our camp for the night and set our rods up. Long alarm cables were trailed off to likely looking swims up the river. We baited up three rods each, making twelve rods between us. Most were baited with 2 oz roach, headless, and injected with pilchard oil. Freeline methods were employed with 1/0 singles direct to the 15lb reel line.

As dark fell our arrangements were complete; twelve sets of contacts strained to pass the current and allow the buzzers to sound. By 9 o'clock the darkness was intense. Well back from the bank we opened tins of beans and sausage, and brewed coffee. Suddenly the expected whine of a buzzer broke the silence. The beans were left to burn and we all tiptoed quietly towards

towards the guilty rod, which was the furthest - 50 yards - away. Line was very slowly peeling from the spool, and after a few seconds it stopped completely.

As it was my rod I decided to leave it to await some movement. After two minutes line gently whispered through the rod rings again. I wound in as fast as I could, and struck. The resistance was unbelievable. After about 30 seconds of intense pulling a huge fish broke the surface.....

On the Friday evening before the trip I had rung the local baliff. He had told me of two large eels taken in a nearby trap the previous week. One was under 8lb, the other just over 8lb. This leviathen verified the truth of his words.

A startled gasp broke out amongst us. Normal ordered bankside procedure was thrown to the winds. Three powerful flashlights were focussed on the fish. It was truly a large eel. Lol instantly offered to wade out through the lilies in water 4ft. deep to ensure a successful netting. He began to do this. I continued to hang on to prevent the eel diving into the subsurface weed masses. 15lb line and a 4lb test curve rod were not enough. With a loud crack the line parted at the hook. The fish lay on the surface like a huge bloated ling brought up from a deep sea wreck.

Lol lunged with the giant net, but slowly the fish realised it was free and sunk backwards out of sight. Then all hell let loose!

Our estimates ranged from Dave's 10lb to my 14lb (of course!). Regardless of its true weight, it was by far the biggest eel we have ever seen, either on a photograph, or in a glass case.

The rest of the night was uneventful, small eels to 2lb., and a 2½lb zander. The following week saw strange scenes: I accosted almost complete strangers and availed them of the facts of that sorrowful night.

There is a sequel to this story. As has already been explained, the river Delph is a veritable fish soup. Profuse weed growth and fast growth rate mean an unlimited supply for predators. Accordingly we arranged a trip after pike. On our first trip we had a reasonable bag, the best two were 12lbs. and 13lb. With two good fish lost at the net.

The next trip, the four of us had 250lb. of fish to 33½lbs. The following week Bob Church had a 26lb-er, seven days later Mike Prorock had a 25lb-er and a 11¼lb zander. Truly exceptional sized predators. We have had six trips to the Delph since. On the worst day our crowd had the best fish was only 19lbs! The 33½ lb pike was only 11 years old. We are doing a growth rate / distribution survey via stainless numbered tags and scale counts. We are now considering a similar project on the Delph eels, if in fact they are resident and not en route to the sea. The next twelve months should provide some very tasty food for thought on this featureless fen water. If anyone would like to accompany us on a trip to this water, especially local lads, please contact us and we'll see if between us we can hook that freshwater conger with a pain in his mouth.

\*

#### Footnote.

Although, as the new Editor, this piece of Ray Brown's has only just come to my hands, I suspect from his concluding remarks that it has been around for some time. Knowing Ray, I would not accuse him of inviting us to fish a superb water just when the season is at an end, and am sorry that this offer was not available to members earlier. I do not know why publication was delayed, but am glad to include it now.



HOW STRONG IS YOUR LINE?

by A.F. Hawkins and D.R. Ball.

If you were at the Spring G.M., you may remember that we agreed to run a tackle survey on line. At the time, I (A.H.) had hoped to get the necessary details out quite quickly, but difficulties in Bulletin production, to say nothing of personal commitments elsewhere, have held things up considerably. Just recently, however, Dave Ball kindly offered to help in this project, and indeed will do most of the hard work in sorting out the results. So I have no further excuse for delay, and have prepared the following piece.

Perhaps it might be as well to recap on why a survey seems necessary, before launching into the details of the scheme. The strength of our tackle depends on its weakest link; rightly or wrongly, the average Club member chooses that this shall be the line. Come the crunch, and he has to pull for a break, he expects the line to part rather than anything else; indeed, most of us would be horrified if, say, our swivel broke, or the trace gave way. Logically, the weakest link in any system is the one that needs choosing with the greatest possible care, because this is the part that determines the ultimate performance of the equipment. With line, this becomes especially crucial if you believe that the finer the line the better the chance of an eel taking the bait, and try to fish as fine as possible consistent with the conditions and power of the rod. Many of us do seem to believe this, and looking around the Club I find that several members have cut their safety margin in line strength to the bare minimum. If the line does not match up to its rated performance, many of us run a serious risk of breaking on the strike, or losing fish during landing.

Unfortunately it seems by no means easy to go and buy a nylon monofil line that does what it says on the packet. In my possession I have two brand new spools of 12lb line, both from highly respected manufacturers, and one, at least, extremely expensive. Joined to a swivel by a blood knot, and soaked in water for a few hours, neither will stand a pull of more than 6 - 7 lbs! I learnt this the hard way; I broke on the strike. By contrast, I have another brand of 12lb line that breaks at 10lbs, both wet and dry. But, and this I find almost unbelievable, the same brand also comes in 15lb breaking strain. On test, this pulls 11lb dry, but less than 9lb wet. In other words, it is actually weaker than the 12lb line!

Need I go on? The one item of tackle that needs choosing with the greatest care turns out to be the one that is most difficult to obtain. Today, the number of different brands available is almost legion; it is impossible for one person to test them all. However, as a Club we could do it, or very nearly. I am sure that most of us would be keen to use the best line available, if we only knew what it was. If we all make an effort to take part in this survey we may well find out.

How can we make the survey work? The first thing to do is to devise some straightforward tests which require no more equipment than we all have already, and which are truly relevant to the performance of the line in actual fishing. The second thing to do is to make absolutely sure that we all do the tests in precisely the same way, so that we can compare different members results in the knowledge that these comparisons are truly valid. To achieve this, I have prepared some standard forms which are enclosed with this Bulletin, and have written detailed notes (below) on how to set about the project. Please read these carefully.

Finally, before describing the forms, a word on administration. I would suggest we allow a period of 6 weeks after dispatch of this Bulletin for the return of the forms (to Alan Hawkins). After this, we will analyse the results, and publish them in a subsequent Bulletin, probably early in the new year.

Should one or more lines appear obviously better than others, I would suggest we use Club funds to purchase 100 metres or so for each member who took part in the scheme; this would both reimburse us for our efforts, and give us a chance to try and confirm our choice with more detailed trials. After this, we may consider whether it would be worth while to repeat the tests again in the future, to cope with the constant introduction of new brands, and the changes in quality (often disastrous!) of the old ones. It would be a pity to let our results become out of date.

Now to the forms.

### 1. What lines qualify for the survey?

Most of us use nylon monofil most of the time, and it is to be expected that the majority of results will be concerned with this material. However, there is no need to restrict reporting to nylon; if you use terylene, or some other material, and are prepared to sacrifice a bit, then by all means go ahead and test it. The results will not be wasted.

For the most consistent results, we would do better, I think, to restrict ourselves solely to brand new line, as it comes off the plastic spool from the shop. But in many ways it is more important to find out how good the line is after one or two hectic sessions - most of us expect our lines to last a month or so - and therefore I have made provision for testing used lines as well. Unfortunately, it is quite impossible to define the amount of use a line has had, we all fish differently, and some strain their tackle more than others. All we can do is make some arbitrary rules; I have divided line into 3 categories on the form:-

New - never been used at all.

Used - used for 10 sessions or less, regardless of success with eels.

Old - used for more than 10 eel sessions.

In other words, the survey covers all lines we regularly consider appropriate for eel fishing.

### 2. Part A on the forms, manufacturer's details.

Most of this can be filled in from what is written on the packet, and requires little explanation. A separate brand name and manufacturers name have been included, as some manufacturers make more than one type. If the manufacturer is not known to you, leave the box blank. Question 4, on diameter, refers to the diameter given on the packet. Some manufacturers have stopped giving this information, or with used lines the packet may not be available; if either apply, leave the box blank. Item 7, type of line, is to record 'nylon monofil', 'braided terylene' etc.

### 3. Part B on the form, breaking strain test.

This is the most crucial part of the project, and where we have to do some work. Please read the following instructions carefully, and follow them precisely.

For new lines, discard the first yard (it may be damaged), for used, or old lines, throw away the first five yards. (I know this sounds wasteful, but the top five yards have to absorb all the shock of casting, often severe, and may not be representative of the rest. Dave Ball routinely scraps the first five yards after each trip, and I think he is right to do so). Having discarded the end piece, cut off ten successive two foot lengths, and arrange them in two piles of five. Arrange these piles so that alternate lengths go to alternate piles, i.e., if the first length goes to a heap on the left, the second goes to the right, and so on.

Next, tie a double-tucked loop, as shown in the diagram on the bottom of the forms, in each end of each of the ten pieces of line. (I know this is not the same knot that we generally use for eel fishing, but it is almost as strong, and much more convenient for our tests. In any case, as long as we all use the same knot, it does not matter very much which it is).

After this, immerse one set of five samples in a container of cold, clean water, and leave for at least 10 hours (longer does not matter). Make sure the water is clean, with no trace of soap or detergent, and if possible keep it at room temperature of about 60° F.

Finally, take each sample in turn, place one loop over a suitable fixed object (a nail in a workbench is ideal, but make sure the surface is smooth and will not cut the line), place the other loop in the hook of a reliable spring balance, and slowly and smoothly increase the pressure until the line just breaks. Record the balance reading - it may take practice - at which the line parts. You will be unlikely to get within about  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb here. Enter this reading under sample 1, T1, in either the dry or wet column, depending on whether you started with the stuff from the bucket of water, or the samples left dry. After this, retie another loop on the end which broke, test it again on the spring balance, and enter the figure under the T2 column. Do this once more to arrive at T3.

It is absolutely essential to have a balance that operates smoothly, and to avoid any sudden jerks or snatches during the test.

In the end, your form should contain five replicate tests for the line both wet and dry. From this, we should learn a number of things:-

- a) the consistency of the line; if different samples behave very differently, we shall know the line varies considerably along its length.
- b) the fatigue resistance of the line. If we have to pull for a break, it is desirable that the rest of the line is not seriously weakened as a result. By testing each sample three times, we should get information on this.
- c) the loss in strength wet. Geoff Swailes, who is a plastics chemist, and ought to know, always said that the finer and harder the nylon, the more it lost strength when wet. It will be interesting to see if this is so in practice.

#### 4. Send a sample.

Please cellotape a short length of each line reported on to the relevant form when returning them. We shall use each sample to measure diameter with a micrometer, and also try and measure its suppleness with a special piece of equipment on the lines of a torsion balance. No more than one yard is required for this.

In toto, the exercise should not involve more than an evening's work for any one member, and the results could more than justify the effort. Please make an effort to help; if you need more forms, Arthur Sutton will be pleased to send them. I, for one, look forward to the results with great interest; it would be nice, for once, to be able to use a line with real confidence in its strength.

ODE

by A.J. Sutton.

- 1/ As an elver, oh so small  
I journeyed from afar.  
A young lad came and scooped me out  
And took me home in a jar.
- 2/ Fortunately for this small eel  
The boys dad was in N.A.C.  
He studied me at length, then sent  
His boy to set me free.
- 3/ I travelled freely up the river  
And along small brooks.  
Growing fast - and wiser now  
From reading angling books
- 4/ I quickly learn what anglers are  
And how to make them fail.  
I concentrate on keeping ME  
Out of 'Anglers Mail'.
- 5/ At twenty five I've grown quite large  
Maturity comes apace  
My lust for pilchard oil has found  
Me, at the end of a trace.
- 6/ I struggle this way, struggle that  
Swimming left - then right.  
I know that I must, 'till the end  
Fight with all my might.
- 7/ I'm on the bank now, and I fear  
The end cannot be far.  
I know that I will finish up  
In a jellied eel bar.
- 8/ I recognise that face I've seen  
Though now of larger form.  
He has no jar now, but I gasp  
My God! It's Ernie Orme.

10.4. September, 1973.

65.

TEN YEARS ON

As Arthur Sutton has reminded us, this is our tenth year as a functioning specimen group. To mark this achievement, I thought it might be a good idea to re-run a few items dug up from past issues of the Bulletin. In this, the first of these pieces, it seemed fitting to reprint the whole of the first ever Bulletin - yes, folks, the whole issue, in its original format as far as possible. Oh! the nostalgia.

THE NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB MONTHLY BULLETIN, JUNE 1964

EEL FISHING VENUES.

We are gathering information regarding eel fishing waters, but naturally such information has to be carefully checked. Here is the first water.  
LET US HAVE INFORMATION ON MORE, PLEASE.

OFFORD CLUNY. RIVER GREAT OUSE. HUNTINGDONSHIRE.  
RAILWAY STATION-----OFFORD AND BUCKDEN.

Of easy access by road, with Huntingdon to the North, downstream, and St. Neots to the South, upstream. Members can book accommodation at the SWAN HOTEL, the proprietor of which issues fishing permits. These must be obtained before fishing. Night fishing is allowed, but mentions this when obtaining permits. OUSE AND CAM river board license also required. PARKING. Vehicles to be parked in meadow adjacent to main weir pool. A small charge is made. Queries, SWAN HOTEL. GOOD EEL FISHING, mainly at night. Eels taken to 6lbs. Small roach baits good for the eels.

A REPORT FORM is required for the month of JUNE and should reach the secretary not later than JULY 7th. It is realised that this is not a complete fishing month, and there may not be much to report, but do what you can.

IT is envisaged that a WEIGHT FOR LENGTH scale will be prepared later, but meanwhile will members please record weight, length and girth for all eels caught, and for this purpose it does not matter if they are caught by another person.

Samples of tackle have been received by the secretary and as soon as these have been duplicated a sample will be sent to each member. If you have any pet idea that seems to hold promise, let the members have it, through the offices of the Club.

Those members owning a camera might take photographs of any good eels which they catch. These will no doubt prove useful in the future.

Last season a large eel was taken on a swan mussel, you may care to try this bait in the coming months. Remember that mice and sparrows have been used successfully for eels.

RESEARCH.---We must all realise that research into eel fishing methods must be our first priority. We must develop our tackle and technique until satisfied that the method we are using is the very best. Providing we keep 'within the rules', no stone can be left unturned. Temperature, light, water conditions, bait etc, all must be studied. No angler can do it all, but a concerted effort, tightly organised, can do much.

TACKLE---In all things there must be a starting point, and for those members with the smaller experience, here is a description of the tackle used successfully by the secretary.

Solid glass rod with a test curve of four pounds. Large diameter fixed spool reel (Mitchell---306) fully loaded with 11lb B/S nylon monofilament. The 306 carries 300 yds of this B/S. HOOKS---- Size according to bait but usually a size ONE good quality round bend.

METHOD----With a baiting needle thread the nylon through the bait, (small fish, usually a roach or gudgeon) in at the anal orifice and out of its mouth. IF any lead is needed this is now put on the line usually as a small barrel lead. The hook is now tied on and pulled back into the fish leaving the point and barb of the hook outside the fishes mouth. A 'SWAN' shot is then pinched on the line close to where it leaves the fish.

If no lead were used, the bait would rise from the bottom, so the fish must have its 'swim bladder' punctured. This can be done with the baiting needle, inserting it several times into the lower part of the fishes belly. This is a good idea anyway, as it releases succulent juices -----feeling hungry?

Remember---- the eel is not the coarse insensitive creature that many would have us believe. Therefore do not let it feel the slightest resistance--- have a good rod rest that will allow free passage of the line.

A good, sensitive, reliable bite alarm is almost essential. DO NOT FORGET A BAITING NEEDLE.

IMPORTANT----If you are sending a specimen report form, two witnesses signatures and addresses must be obtained. Specimen report forms to be sent to Mr. J. Larty---161, GREEN LANE. EDGEWARE. MIDDLESEX. Specimen certificates will be issued to any member catching an eel of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lbs or more.

'Best of luck' to all members. GO AND GET 'em

---

NOTE FROM SECRETARY.

Due to an unfortunate mishap with the duplicating machine I have had to re-type much of Alans' original work. Alan had originally typed the whole of this issue himself, and I apologise to him sincerely if the format is changed, and for errors which will undoubtedly be mine and not his.