

Korum rolls out scheme into Europe

AFTER the huge success of tackle company Korum's '1 Heart Fishing' scheme that was launched earlier this year in the UK, the project is now being rolled out in other parts of Europe.

At the end of the month a Club Korum day is being held in Italy, which will see 300 anglers competing in a match, and all of the local schools have been invited to attend and take part in coaching sessions.

Similar events are also being held in Holland and the Ukraine in the near future.

To see an interview with Club Korum's Sarah Phoenix go to www.gofishing.co.uk

Poster bid to deter thieves

A TACKLE dealer is giving away multi-lingual posters in an attempt to deter fish thieves. Steve Calder of Carping On, in Mildenhall, Suffolk, has produced a series of free laminated information sheets for local clubs.

The posters, translated into Polish, Lithuanian, Albanian and Portuguese, advise newcomers to the country about Britain's catch-and-release policy.

Steve said: "Since we opened our shop I've heard some real horror stories involving netting and even electro fishing on a near-commercial scale.

"Hopefully by posting these information notices in multiple languages the message will quickly spread that poaching will not be tolerated on our waterways."

Good old days

OWNERS of a popular North West tackle shop have called it a day after 40 years in the trade. George and Dorothy Chamberlain, owners of George's Tackle in Frog Lane, Wigan, shut their doors for the last time at the weekend.

George, who is to soon celebrate his 70th birthday, told local press how he had witnessed many changes take place in the sport over the years.

"Now I reckon 90 per cent of anglers fish at specially created stillwaters, when before most used to fish the local flashes, canals and rivers here. I think it's a shame, there's nothing nicer than passing a length of canal dotted with anglers," he said.

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RIVER SWIMS ARE NOT ALL ALIKE, SO IT MAKES SENSE TO CARRY A VARIETY OF STICK FLOAT PATTERNS TO DEAL WITH CONDITIONS ENCOUNTERED ON THE DAY

Sharpen up your sticks



It looks like being a great winter for river anglers, and there's no better way to fish than with the right stick float.

Dave Harrell
BRITAIN'S BEST RIVER ANGLER TELLS ALL – ONLY IN **AnglingTimes**

THE next five months, for me, are the best of the season, because the fishing on my favourite waters can, at times, be fantastic.

We've had some good flushes of water in recent weeks, and at the time of writing the levels are good everywhere. But with water temperatures dropping, it's important to think carefully about how you present your hookbait.

If there's a decent depth and flow close in then chances are that the best approach will be with stick float tactics, so this week I'm going to take you through my thoughts on how you can use them to their best effect.

To start with you need to carry plenty of patterns and sizes if you are to cope with the variety of swims that you might be faced with. For me, that means stick floats from as little as four No4s right up to as big as 30 No4s.

Then there is the actual length and construction of the float itself. I tend to use alloy wire stems for most of my stick float work these days. They're perfect for distances up to a couple of rodlenghts out, which is the best sort of territory to control your floats perfectly.

Beyond this distance I favour a heavy wood base

instead of alloy as it gives me more weight in the float to cast longer distances.

I don't like really heavy bases, as they tend to make the float self-cock, which I don't think is right. If the base is too heavy the float doesn't fly out correctly when you're casting either, as there is too much weight in the float itself and you end up having to slow down the cast in order to let the line below lay correctly on the water.

By using a heavy, but not self-cocking, base you can achieve a good distance and have the float working in tandem with the shot down below.

The length of stem is important in achieving this balance, and I spent a lot of time getting this right with my MKII dome and shouldered top floats. The end result is two sets of floats that cast like a dream and also work with the settling shots as they gradually cock the float. If you're someone who likes your stick floats to self-cock faster, all you need to do is move some shot right up underneath the stem, but I wouldn't recommend it.

I meet a lot of people who talk about bulk shotting with stick floats, but it's something that I never do as I have better floats for bulk shotting, like Avons and Bolos. Stick floats are all about strung-out shots, and I never bulk any of the shots together.

Pick the right rubber

ANGLERS spend a fortune on kit, yet skimp on something as cheap as decent float rubber. I've coached a lot of people and seen anglers resorting to using things like pellets bands to fix the float on to the line.

Not only are these not the right rubbers for the job, they're also too thick-walled, so surface tension is often an issue. I put a lot of research into the correct wall thickness for float rubbers and, in my opinion, the ones to go for are 0.5mm.

My own range features this wall thickness all the way through from 0.5mm up to 8mm bores, which covers everything for me from pole floats up to bulbous 30 No4 stick floats.



There's a stick float for virtually every running-water situation. The trick is to know which ones to use, and when.

Sticks on winders

I MAKE up most of my rigs at home and store them on winders. For small sticks taking from 4 No4s up to 8 No4s, I use No8 shots with a No9 or No10 on the hooklength. For 10 No4s up to 14 No4s I use No6 shots with a No8 on the hooklength, and for 16 No4s up to 30 No4s it's No4 shots with a No6 on the hooklength.

For winter fishing I go for 3lb (0.16mm) or 4lb (0.18mm), which covers me for virtually any stick float situation.

I make up my winder rigs on about 10ft of line and tie a loop at both ends. The bottom loop is small to take a hooklength, the top one allows the winder to pass through it. Then tie a small loop in your mainline and pass the big winder loop through this. The winder is then passed through and the two loops are tightened together. Leave these loops above the float or slide the float carefully over the loops. The float is now transferred on to the mainline and there are no knots in the way, to get stuck in your rod rings if you are fishing deep.



A neat way to store sticks.

My favourite stick types

ALLOY STEM SHOULDERED TOP

THE most sensitive stick float, which I carry in sizes from four No4s up to 14 No4s. This is the float I use when there is a smooth and steady flow, and I use the equivalent of one No4 shot per foot of depth. The tip is very thin, which makes it a perfect roach and dace pattern. You can hold this float back quite hard, too, and on colder days it often pays to ease it all the way through the swim by feeding the line off the reel with your fingers.



ALLOY STEM DOME TOP

THIS has a bulbous top that can be seen a long way down the swim. The shape of the float top is very important. I see many which are just bulbous, and while these can be good if there is a lot of pace, my tapered designs enable the float to be shotted down for sensitivity or left a little bit undershotted for maximum buoyancy and visibility. These take over where shouldered sticks leave off and are more buoyant and more visible at distance. I often use the equivalent of two or three No4 shot per foot of depth in fast flow, so a 10ft deep swim can mean a float as big as 20 or even 30 No4s.



LIGNUM STEM SHOULDERED TOP

IN THE same way that the alloy stem shouldered float offers sensitivity, this one does too, but the heavy base also allows it to be fished much further out. Shot-to-depth ratio is the same as the alloy stem shouldered top float. For the smaller floats from 4 No4s up to 8 No4s I use No8s and above that No6s.



LIGNUM STEM DOME TOP

AS A natural progression, this float takes over from the shouldered heavy base float and can be fished at long distance with a good upstream wind direction. Same shotting and shot to depth ratio same as the lignum stem shouldered top.



ALLOY STEM SHALLOW WATER STICK

THIS float is for shallow water swims and is best suited to depths from 3ft to 6ft. I use a simple shotting pattern for this one, with closely-strung No4 shot and a No6 nearest the hook.



MORE INFO
For details of Dave's tackle company, visit: www.daveharrellangling.com and his guiding service: info@daveharrellangling.com. You can follow Dave on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/DaveHarrellAngling and on Twitter at: www.twitter.com/dave_harrell