

Matchmen surprised by Ouse carp

MATCH anglers on the Yorkshire Ouse have been getting a few surprises with carp showing regularly – and three of the last four matches around York have been won with the species.

Dave Miles had one to thank for most of his 8lb 14oz winning catch in the Yorkshire Winter League, and a carp has also won the York Angling Club Tower Trophy. Others around 10lb have been reported from Naburn Lock on this predominantly roach and bream-dominated waterway.

19lb cod tops at Lymington

BIG COD were on the cards during the latest Lymington and District SFC event and eventual winner Bob Mines took the glory with a 19lb 8oz specimen.

He targeted a mark close to the club's headquarters while competing in the open match and landed the £500 prize when the big fish fell for a double squid bait.

Several other large cod were landed, with runner-up Russell Saunders boating a fish of 17lb 1oz.

Stocking fear shuts water

AN ANGLING club has been forced to close one of its most popular waters after Environment Agency staff raised concerns that it could be stocked to a level that hampers fish welfare.

Bay Malton AC's Match Lake, on the Border Fisheries complex in Cheshire, has become a favourite with members in recent years but a drop in catch returns led to the alarm being raised.

EA officials will conduct a netting operation to find out the true numbers of fish and intend to remove some of the large carp if their theory proves to be valid.

Clean-up for the Beds Ivel

WORK has been undertaken by the Environment Agency to improve spawning habitats on the River Ivel in Bedfordshire.

On a stretch close to where the river record barbel of 18lb 6oz was caught by Richard Callif last month, officers cleaned the gravel to make it more suitable for fish to lay their eggs.

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“My biggest problem was that I didn't have enough bait with me



Hordes of tiny chub gobbled up my bait – but the big ones proved elusive.

WHEREVER I have lived during my life, I have always found one or two waters locally that I really enjoyed fishing – somewhere I could go to for just an hour or two if I fancied wetting a line.

Bewdley and Evesham were the best places I have ever lived, as I had the Severn and the Avon on my doorstep.

But since moving to Rugby at the end of 2007 all that disappeared as the only local river is the upper Warwickshire Avon, which is about 10m wide on average and even less than that in some places. It's also a very shallow stretch with a lot of weed in areas, so I had never considered it worth fishing.

That was until a chance meeting with Kevin Folwell, an angler who I am sure many Angling Times readers will know.

Kevin lives near me in Rugby and a few weeks ago we met up in a pub in town and started talking fishing and specifically, fishing in the local area.

He told me that he had seen local anglers on the river, but wasn't sure what the fishing was like there.

So, over another pint, we decided to give it a try together to find out what was in there.

When the day arrived and we were



Dave Harrell

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making our way along the narrow waterway at Newbold-on-Avon I'm sure both of us were initially thinking 'what are we doing here?' It was cold and foggy, but the river colour looked good.

I'd walked the stretch the previous day and found two swims that looked superb, but when we arrived there were two other anglers already tackling up on them.

We walked further upstream and picked out another couple of swims which looked like they might hold a few fish. Both were slightly deeper runs sandwiched between fast shallows.

Our 12ft float rods were quickly assembled and as the swims were only 3ft deep, both of us chose to use one of my Shallow Water sticks as our floats for the day.

Shooting was simple. All the No6 shots

were either bulked together or spread out, with the bottom shot fixed gins from the hook.

Bait choice was also simple. We'd both got a pint of maggots and I'd also put a few 6mm and 8mm carp pellets in the bag in case tiny fish were a problem.

For those who don't know Kevin, he's a match angler with an excellent pedigree. He was a member of the recent three-man team that won the County Champs and he has a long list of successes with

teams like Image and Browning. He has long been

regarded as one of the best canal anglers on the Midlands circuit and he's also been a regular winner on such rivers as the Thames and Avon.

In recent years, like a lot of match anglers who came through the canal circuits, Kevin has switched his attentions to commercial fisheries and can regularly be found at Tunnel Barn Farm in Shrewley. It's a venue he rates

highly as, to use his words, "there are loads of bites to be had and that's the sort of fishing I like best."

So how did our day go? Well, to be totally honest, I can't believe how many bites we had! My first fish, a decent size dace came after just five minutes and from that point onwards it was literally a bite every cast!

The biggest problem I had was that I didn't have enough bait with me and Kevin found the same problem on his peg. Both of us felt we needed an extra pint of maggots as our loosefeed was being gobbled up by hordes of tiny chub and dace as well as small roach and minnows.

Neither of us found the big chub we

were hoping for, so it's an excuse for us to go back again with big baits like bread as well as more maggots over the forthcoming weeks.

The fishing is simple and free and the sport on offer is excellent. I really enjoyed the day and have now discovered a stretch of river where I can get a local fix and use up old bait for a couple of hours over the next few months.

Kevin and I have crossed paths many times in big team finals, but I didn't really know him that well until our day together on the Avon. Now that I've got to know him better, I'm looking forward to getting out on the bank more with him, as he's a great guy as well as being a great angler.

Kevin Folwell with a perfect upper Avon chub.

10 metres wide ...and a bite every put-in

A HIDDEN GEM OF A RIVER, RIGHT ON DAVE'S DOORSTEP

MORE RIVER FESTIVALS

MY COMMENTS recently about wanting more river festivals didn't go unnoticed and I understand from my friend, Paul Glenfield, that there are plans for a three-day Thames festival next year.

I hope that other areas of the country also follow the lead that has been set at places like Burton on the Trent and Hereford on the Wye, as river anglers are crying out for good events and will travel if they are worth attending.

As well as the Thames, other river venues that immediately spring to mind are places like the Yare, Tees, Tyne, Bristol Avon and the Severn at places like Stourport, Upton and down to Ripple.

I'm sure there are many more all around the country, so if organisers need any assistance or advice on the structure of running a festival on their waters please feel free to drop me a line and I'll help all I can.

MORE INFO

Dave Harrell is recognised as one of the country's best river anglers and has devoted his life to learning different skills on running water. He has fished for England at World and European level and now owns his own tackle company, Dave Harrell Angling. For details of the product range go to: www.daveharrellangling.com He is also available for one to one and group coaching sessions on the River Wye throughout the river season. For more details contact Dave at: info@daveharrellangling.com You can also follow Dave's daily and weekly exploits on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/DaveHarrellAngling and on Twitter at: www.twitter.com/dave_harrell



Dave took this excellent catch in just three hours.