



Matchwinner Mal Watson.

Three wins on the bounce at Moorlands

IT WAS certainly a week to remember for top matchman Mal Watson as he claimed victory in three matches on the bounce at Moorlands Farm.

The Daiwa Gordon League rod kicked off his impressive run at the Worcestershire venue with a winning 56lb 4oz weight of F1s from peg 28 on Silver Pool, and just days later he took centre stage again when he used pellet from peg 37 on Meadow Pool for 78lb.

He then sealed his hat-trick with a 90lb 4oz table-topping haul from peg 14 on the Island Pool during the Sunday open.

Lake available for lease

HAVE you ever fancied running your own fishery? If so, now's your chance as a popular coarse lake has become available to lease.

Seven Acres Fishery near Towcester, in Northamptonshire, is a picturesque 1.5-acre, spring-fed fishery that is stocked with a wide variety of coarse fish including carp to over 20lb, chub, tench, bream, grass carp, perch and rudd.

The water is now up for lease, and if you're interested call owner Frank Clynnes on 07802 425244.

Tunnel Barn's loyalty scheme

ONE OF the nation's most popular commercial complexes has created a loyalty system to help reward regular customers.

Warwickshire's Tunnel Barn Farm has become a big hit with angling clubs from all over the land, and any outfit booking four matches in the coming year will now be allowed to stage a fifth event for free.

For more details on the scheme visit www.tunnelbarnfarm.co.uk or call 01926 842975.

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Follow my guide and beat the flow

HOW TO BAG UP ON THE POLE AFTER THE RIVERS HAVE DROPPED

THE RECENT heavy rain has seen our rivers high and over their banks in many areas of the country, but when they do drop back I reckon some bumper catches will be made.

The fish will be hungry after fighting the strong current, and if temperatures don't drop too low you'll be able to get away with putting a fair bit of bait in too.

One of my favourite approaches when rivers are pushing through hard is to use a big pole float over either groundbait or loosefeed introduced from a bait dropper. It's a really positive way to fish and you can amass big weights if you catch the level and temperature right.

I'm currently working on a new range of river pole floats but, at present, I use just three patterns for fast-moving water. Each one does a very different job.

My first choice is a Rive Alan Scotthorne pattern, a really strong pole float with a side eye and a hole going right through the body. This eliminates line cutting into the body, a problem often encountered with traditional floats. I carry these in sizes from 3g to 10g and all are made up on 0.20mm mainlines.

If that sounds heavy, let me explain. Quite often I will be using strong hooklengths for big fish with these rigs, and if I end up using 0.16mm or 0.18mm

hooklengths, the last thing I want is a breakage in the mainline if I snag-up. This is always likely on high rivers as all sorts of debris can wash down and settle in swims after a big flood. Hooklengths range from

0.14mm to 0.18mm, and my favourite hook patterns are Drennan Wide Gape and Kamasan Animal Spades.

I use this Rive float for slowing hookbaits down and for laying on in areas of slack water. Shotting is simple. I fix an olivette on to the line with shot and position a single drop shot on the hooklength - usually a No4, but I do go up to a No1 or even a BB on the bigger sizes.

I usually start off with this rig set about a float length overdepth and go from there. If bites are coming quickly I set the rig at dead depth or just off bottom, but if bites are hard to come by I'll go deeper.

POLES AND WHIPS

On most rivers I'll use a normal long take-apart pole at distances from 6m up to 13m. With the Rive float I make my rigs up on six sections as this will give me the chance to run a fair way downstream, but with the flat floats I only leave around 3ft to 4ft between the pole-tip and float.

My favourite bit of kit for this sort of fishing is a long, elasticated whip, and in my opinion there are none better than the Daiwa Tournament or Airity System whips which I use in lengths of 6m, 7m

and 8m. I've used these for several years now and never had a section break, regardless of how much abuse I have handed out to them! That includes landing salmon, barbel and some very big chub and bream.

All I do to make the whip right for big river floats is remove the No1 section and then elasticate through No2 and No3 with No12 or No14 solid latex elastic. For the long take-apart pole you can use the same, or a hollow elastic equivalent.

HOW TO FEED

To feed a fast-flowing swim, especially if it's still carrying colour from a flood, I use either groundbait and soil or a bait dropper. Sometimes I use a combination of the two. My bait droppers are the Fox varieties, which are very reliable and much better than the old metal ones, as you can increase or decrease the weight at the bottom of the dropper.

I'm currently experimenting with a



A fine roach taken on a flat float on the pole when the river was pulling through hard. I really enjoy this method.



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Dave Harrell

BRITAIN'S BEST RIVER ANGLER TELLS ALL - ONLY IN **AnglingTimes**

Floodwater floats



Cralusso Torpedo - best here up to 12g.

MY other two high-water pole float choices are both made by Cralusso and are the best flat floats currently available.

The Torpedo is used in sizes up to 50g in European matches. Feeder fishing is banned in matches over there so, in my opinion, there isn't much need for floats that big here.

I've got them made up in sizes up to 15g, but I rarely go past 10g or 12g, and if I need to I usually find the feeder is a better option.

In the smaller 4g to 10g sizes it's hard to beat for nailing a bait down hard on the bottom and keep it totally in check.

By inching the float down the swim with the pole set on a spray bar you can cover a fair amount of water too.

On days when you want the best of both worlds, the more rounded Cralusso Bubble is the one to go for.

It's important to think about how you set all these floats, and that usually means adding quite a lot more shot to keep the body under the water and the bristle shotted well down but visible enough to register bites.

I normally use AAAs and BBs with maybe a No1 or No4 to trim the bristle down.

With both Cralusso float patterns you will need to experiment with depth, but I don't go too far overdepth. I find bite registration is best if I use a bigger float set around a foot or so overdepth.

Hooklengths for all three rigs range from 0.14mm to 0.18mm, and my favourite hook patterns are Drennan Wide Gape and Kamasan Animal Spades.



The Cralusso Bubble is a versatile flat float.

MORE INFO

Dave Harrell is recognised as one of the country's best ever 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 his products 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