

Carp moved to protect birds' eggs

A GROUP of anglers in Surrey are up in arms after a local council decided to move carp out of a popular fishing lake in order to protect birds' eggs.

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council moved a number of the fish out of the Top Lake at Earlswood Common Nature Reserve because officers accused the fish of eating rare birds' eggs - which infuriated anglers who visit the venue.

John Brice, club secretary for Nutfield Marsh Angling Club, said: "I was devastated. In these times of austerity the council could create a significant income from the lakes, but we need to all work together."

No licence for Scotland

A SCOTTISH minister has quashed anglers' fears by suggesting that the Government have no plans to introduce a rod licence north of the border despite a new bill allowing Holyrood, the Scottish Parliament, to enforce one.

Rumours were rife after the passing of the new Aquaculture and Fisheries bill, but Paul Wheelhouse MSP, the minister for Environment and Climate Change, sent a letter to the board at the Scottish Federation for Coarse Angling (SFCA) to clarify the Government's position, telling them to spread the word among fishermen that any talk of plans to introduce a licence is rubbish.

Golden peg victory earns angler £400

A LACK of action and low temperatures left most of the field downbeat after the latest event at Partridge Lakes, but Andy Bennett had plenty of reason to celebrate after he took victory from the golden peg.

The Daiwa Guru man drew peg 74 on the Covey Canals at the Cheshire complex and used double white maggot at 10m to net F1s and carp to 2lb for a 36lb 10oz total.

That was easily enough to beat the opposition and he left the complex with a £400 cash prize for his efforts.

ALL THE MATCH NEWS, DATES AND RESULTS START PAGE 55

THERE'S SUPERB SPORT TO BE ENJOYED IN THE FINAL MONTHS

Here's to a... great back end

IF THE PAST year is anything to go by and you're a running water enthusiast, you can look forward to the next few months with a lot of optimism.

As it's the start of a new year I thought I'd get my crystal ball out this week and try to point you in the right direction.

The next three months before the closed season kicks in on March 14 can offer some of the very best fishing of the season if you know where to go.

In my own region, the Severn always seems to come into its own during these months, especially if the river is low as it was last season. If it's a similar story this time, I'd recommend you to head for the middle reaches below Bridgnorth.

I fished here a few times last season and had some memorable days, including one on the Birmingham AA's Stanley Water with Angling Trust Campaigns Co-ordinator Martin Salter. We shared a peg and had fish after fish on a big Speci Wagglers and maggots fished down the middle. The big catch included Martin's best-ever float-caught barbel that weighed 9lb 6oz.

Farther downstream, one of my all-time favourite Severn stretches is the Lyttleton water at Stourport. This famous winter match length has seen great catches of roach, dace and chub, and merits a visit.

I'm also hoping to spend some time lower down the river before the season ends, in pursuit of bream. Upton is my favourite spot for this and, like

Stourport, it's also another very good roach stretch from now until the end of the season.

The Warwickshire Avon from Warwick down to Eckington really comes into its own from now until March and if you catch it 'on the drop' with a nice green tinge after it's been up, you can almost guarantee good chub and roach on the float.

Moving further west, on the River Wye, the big catches of barbel that were fairly common in the summer are now replaced with big bags of hungry chub!

Where else should you head for over the next three months? Here are 10 rivers worth trying before the shut-down.

THAMES

This river, especially in the middle reaches around Oxford, has fished better than for years. Colour in the water has been the key and the big roach shoals, which many said had disappeared, are now back with a vengeance. Stick float and waggler-fished maggot is the key to success.

TRENT

The Trent has got better and better over the past few seasons and now there are plenty of roach to go for on stick float and waggler from Burton Joyce down to Nottingham.

In the tidal reaches loads of bream and skimmers have been showing on the feeder this season too.

NENE

Like the Warwickshire Avon, the Nene always seems to offer good sport from January to March period. Again, colour is the key. Catch it right and you could be in for a very good catch in and around the Peterborough area. Floatfished hemp and maggots are the key baits here.

CALDER

This river has been improving all the time over the past few



Many rivers save the best till last, and the Severn and the Wye can both provide superb chub and barbel fishing as the season on running water draws to a close.



Dave Harrell

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

seasons and a sign of just how good it is, is the type of angler it is now attracting. When match anglers of the calibre of Alan Scotthorne, Denis White and Keith Hobson are in the draw queue you can rest assured that there are plenty of silver fish to go for!

DON

Rather like the Calder, the Don is one of the most improving rivers in Yorkshire. It's very deep in places so you'll need long rods if you want to floatfish the Don but it's well worth a try!

TYNE

This is one river that I definitely want to fish next season if I get the opportunity. Up there in the North East it's a long way from where I live but I keep reading about the big catches of quality dace and talking to

OF THE RIVER SEASON. GIVE THESE 10 A TRY...



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 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. Follow Dave's exploits on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/DaveHarrellAngling and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/dave_harrell

Q&A - deep-water Bolo fishing



Dave swings in a Bolo-caught roach.

Q What's Bolo fishing all about, and where did this technique get its name?

A Bolo fishing originated in Bologna in Italy, where deep water required the use of very long telescopic rods and big floats. The Italians are widely regarded as the best at the technique as they have many waters where the method is employed.

The world was shown how effective the technique was at the 1992 World Champs on the River Erne in Ireland when the Italian team took top spot convincingly with catches of bream and roach on rods between 6m and 8m long.

Dave Harrell was the first angler to win a match in the UK on the Bolo when he recorded 26lb of roach at Shrewsbury in October 1992 with a 6m telescopic rod.

Since then this tactic has played a big part on all deep water rivers around the UK and is an important method for most river anglers.

Q What is the best way to shot a Bolo rig?

A Some people use two or three shots under a bulk but Dave recommends an olivette about two feet from the hook and just one drop shot underneath, fixed about 10ins from the hook. This shot is usually a No6 or No4.

Q Any other tips that can help on the Bolo?

A Always carry spare rigs on winders. This will save a lot of time if you get a tangle and need to change rigs. Always cast downstream so that you get good presentation immediately after the float has settled.

Keep feeding the swim regularly and fish the rig either just touching, or just off the bottom for starters. As the session progresses you can also try fishing overdepth and holding the float back.

Telescopic rods are easier to store.



Q Are telescopic rods better than take-apart rods?

A Telescopic rods are used exclusively in Europe as they're easier to make up and store with the rigs on, but more anglers in the UK tend to use take-apart rods. Telescopic rods are better for casting and have more of a soft tip action than take-apart rods.

people who fish there and the reports are always good.

YARE

This is yet another river that is on my radar for next season. The catches of roach and bream from here are incredible at times and from chats I've had with friends who fish there, it's a real 'man's river' where you need to be bold with your approaches.

DORSET STOUR

A few friends of mine fished this river a lot at the back end of last season and every time they went they reported good catches of big chub and roach. Well worth a visit!

HAMPSHIRE AVON

This famous river, while not up to its former glories in terms of the sheer numbers of big roach, is still well worth fishing if big roach are quarry. I'm hoping to get on here before the season ends, as I'm desperate to catch a 2lb roach again!

BRISTOL AVON

This river doesn't get the publicity it deserves these days as it still produces really good catches of roach in the winter months. Another deep river in places, you'll need a long rod and bolo floats to get the best results in some areas.



A 9lb 6oz personal best barbel was the reward for Martin Salter when he and I fished the Birmingham AA Stanley Water on the Severn last season.



Dave's choices of Bolo float.

Q How do I work out what size float to use when I'm fishing the Bolo?

A As a general guide, for steady flowing water go for a slim bodied float and use one gram capacity for every three feet of water. A 12ft deep swim therefore should be tackled with a 4g float.

For fast flows use a bulbous bodied float of one gram capacity for every two feet of depth. A 12ft deep fast swim would be tackled with a 6g float.

“The Don is one of the most improving rivers in Yorkshire