

### Larford hosts silverfish event next month

WORCESTERSHIRE'S Maver Larford Lakes will host its four-day Silverfish Festival between February 25 and 28 on the Specimen Lake. The overall winner will be decided on points, with weight being taken into account in the event of a tie. Tickets cost £130 and you can book your spot by calling 07774 703067.

### Poachers use more violence

FISHERIES officers looking for poachers in Ireland were subject to a series of violent attacks last year, an enquiry has been told. Derick Anderson, boss of the Loughs Agency, said that its boats had been stoned and damaged and staff had been injured while they were working in Foyle. The patrols were in response to escalating salmon poaching.

### New book on the River Exe

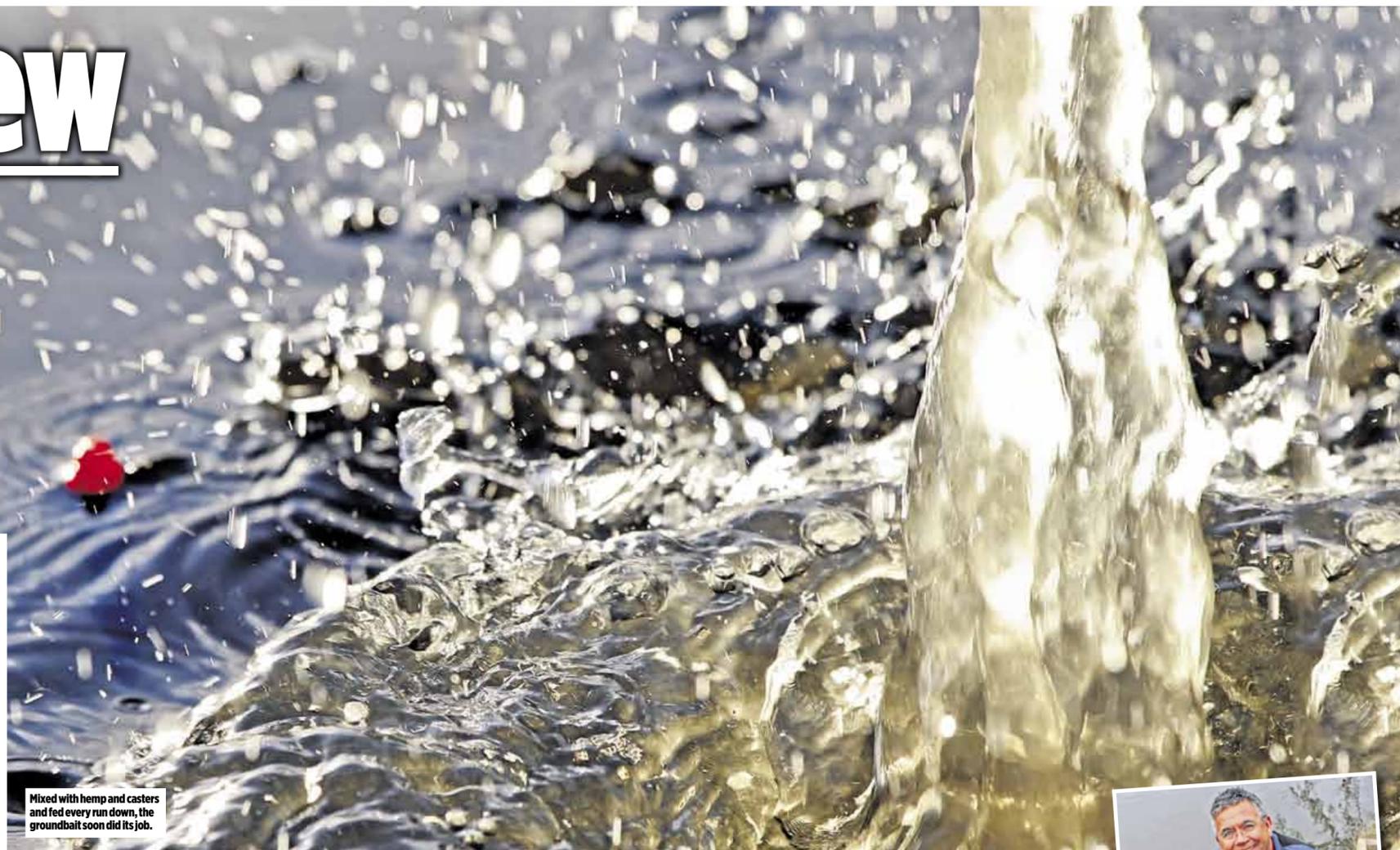
ANYONE who fishes the River Exe in Devon should be interested in a new book by author and fisheries scientist David Solomon. 'A History of Fish and Fisheries of the River Exe' focuses on the waterway's fish stocks as well examining the development of coarse and game fisheries – how they are managed, catch statistics, and the people who have cared for them. It is available from all good book stores priced around £15.

### Oaks bailiff's triple triumph

REGULAR visitors to The Oaks Lakes were taught a thing or two when Chris Hall bagged three victories on the bounce at the complex. The venue bailiff started his impressive streak at the North Yorkshire venue with a 13lb 8oz net of FIs on maggot from peg 18 on Cedar Lake, and put in another table-topping performance just days later when he bagged 20lb 15oz of carp from peg 42 on the same water. He then completed the hat-trick in style on Sycamore Lake, where he used corn and pellet for a winning weight of 55lb 5oz.

**DES TAYLOR'S BEST-EVER PERCH CATCH PAGE 44**

# Splash! My new mix gets the roach going



Mixed with hemp and casters and fed every run down, the groundbait soon did its job.

**O**NE OF the really enjoyable things about working as a consultant for Bait-Tech is that I get to try out new products before they hit the market.

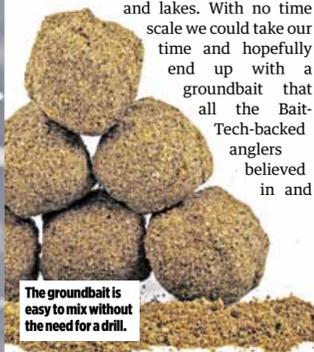


## Dave Harrell

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

Some are an instant success, others take some time to get right, so when Peter Clapperton asked me to get involved with the development of a new groundbait I was excited to say the least!

The brief was simple. Work with us on a mix that you want to use on a variety of natural waters for natural fish, not just roach but all fish that swim in rivers and lakes. With no time scale we could take our time and hopefully end up with a groundbait that all the Bait-Tech-backed anglers believed in and



The groundbait is easy to mix without the need for a drill.

caught loads of fish with.

The first samples were produced way back in the early part of the season and five different blends later, it's now nearing the end of January and I believe the mix is ready to launch. It's full of active ingredients, mixes really easily without the need for a drill and will work on all sorts of waters here and in places like Ireland, Holland and Denmark.

The latest session with the new groundbait took place on the River Wye at Hereford. Angling Trust Campaigns Co-ordinator Martin Salter and long-time friend and Shakespeare Superteam member Brian Rigby joined me, and with the river looking in perfect trim we were looking forward to a good day giving the new mix a thorough testing!

The floods at Christmas had seen the

river around 18ft above normal, so you can imagine what state the bank was in – muddy to say the least.

With this in mind we elected to fish permanent pegs 85, 86 and 87. These are all on wooden stages put in last summer as part of an initial trial funded between the controlling Hereford DAA club and the Environment Agency. I hope more are put in for next season as they make fishing on the river far more comfortable.

We all elected to fish in slightly different ways, but all using the new Bait-Tech mix. Brian fished a 6m Bolo rod well out in the river with a 6g float, Martin used a 15ft rod with a centrepin reel and crowquill Avon float, and I set up a 7m whip with a 5g float and a 14ft float rod with a 4g Avon float.

The other two lads went down the

'ball a chuck from the start' routine while I put in 10 big balls slightly down the swim, which could be covered with both the running line and pole rig.

My mix comprised two-thirds of the new mix and a third riverbank soil (or 'Terre de Hereford' as I call it). Into the initial 10 balls I put a pint of casters and one of hemp and topped up with a small one-handed ball every cast

thereafter. In addition I loosefed quite heavily with maggots, as these would drift further downstream and give me two areas of the peg to catch fish from.

With the rig set at full depth or just over I was half expecting to get a bite first run down, but it took about an hour to get things going.

This often happens on the Wye and indeed on other rivers around the

country, and the key to these venues is to keep feeding. When the fish do arrive you need to have some bait on the bottom for them to settle over and stay put.

It was a similar story in Martin and Brian's pegs and soon we were all in action, with roach to the 1lb mark and some quality dace too.

Double maggot was the best hookbait,

although Martin did manage to land a few better quality roach on small pieces of breadflake as the light faded.

The new groundbait worked really well for all three of us and I'm now happy that Bait-Tech has come up with the perfect natural fishery mix.

I understand it will be available in the shops in the next couple of months, so look out for it and give it a try!

## 'WHEN THE FISH ARRIVE YOU NEED TO HAVE SOME

## BAIT ON THE BOTTOM FOR THEM TO SETTLE OVER'



I can safely say this new groundbait is the business.

# Dave's River Fishing Clinic

**DO YOU** have a question for our river expert? Send an email to: [info@daveharrellangling.com](mailto:info@daveharrellangling.com) As well as having your question answered, there's a set of DH Angling floats up for grabs for the best one used.

### TRUNCHEONS DESIGNED FOR DEEPER WATER

**Q**I noticed on your website that you have two types of wagglers called Truncheons. What is the thinking behind these designs and are they better than a Speci Wagglers? **Brian Johnson**

**A**I designed my original Speci Wagglers for fishing shallow, fast flowing rivers in depths up to 4ft. They were an instant success but I realised that they were limited in use for deeper water as the float just wasn't long enough.

I still wanted the buoyancy that the floats offered so that I could drag a bait along the bottom

without the float being pulled under, so the answer was to produce new designs with an all-through taper. This resulted in the same buoyancy up top but longer floats that cope with deeper swims much better.

The No1 and No2 Truncheons are perfect for depths up to 10ft. For the No1 float I fix No6 shot down the line and use one No6 per two feet of water. For the No2 Truncheon I use No4 shot down the line in the same way. The nearest shot to the hook is usually about 30cm to 40cm away.

### DH ANGLING WINNER FLOATS



Truncheon Wagglers are the floats to use in deeper, pacey river swims.

### TRY PELLETS IN AN OPEN-END FEEDER

**Q**I had a lot of success catching barbel on halibut pellets in the summer but my last few trips have been disastrous! Any tips for winter pellet fishing? **Michael Smith**

**A**It's possible to keep catching on pellets in winter but you need to keep an eye on temperatures. Right now it's cold, and bites will be hard to come by, but once temperatures start rising again barbel will feed.

I've had a lot of success on a small open-end feeder with Bait-Tech Halibut Marine groundbait with a few 4mm pellets in the mix and a single 8mm Super Halibut pellet on the hair. These dissolve a bit faster than normal halibuts and have caught me fish when others blanked.

Patience is key, and you will often find bites will come late in the session. Be prepared to leave the rig in for up to half-an-hour once you've got some bait on the bottom.



Dave prefers the red Super Halibut pellets for barbel and carries them in various sizes.

### CENTREPINS AREN'T ROCKET SCIENCE

**Q**What are your thoughts on centrepin reels, and if I buy one should I have the line coming off the top or the bottom of the drum? **Peter Higginson**

**A**Quite a lot of anglers now use these reels on the Wye and Severn, and once you get some flow in a river they can often outscore fixed-spool reels. I always have the line coming off the top of the spool, but I do know some anglers who prefer it coming off the bottom. You'll notice in the picture that my centrepin doesn't have any handles. To retrieve the rig after a long run through a swim, I simply 'bat' the reel to bring it back quickly.

To play fish, I simply put my finger in one of the big holes and wind the reel backwards. If you've never had a go it's not as difficult as it might sound.



Dave's centrepin. Note the line coming off the top of the spool.

### 'Book two, get one free' deal

FISHING clubs who book two matches on Doncaster and District Angling Association's canals will get a third match free in 2013.

It's part of an initiative by the organisation to promote canal fishing and help small clubs 'in these financially difficult times'. The scheme applies to the South Yorkshire Navigation and New Junction Canals, for matches of between 10 and 25 pegs. For match bookings contact Martin Warne on 07771986849. More information can be found at [www.ddaa.co.uk](http://www.ddaa.co.uk)

### Southern Carp Cup latest

DATES and venues have been announced for this year's Southern Carp Cup.

The 30-hour pairs event will feature four qualifiers ahead of the final at Dorset's Todber Manor on June 29.

The first qualifiers take place at Broadlands in Hampshire and Thorney Weir in Middlesex on March 16. The other two are on April 13 at Emperor Lakes in Devon and Nickolls Leisure in Kent. Entry is £250 and places can be booked at [www.southerncarpcup.co.uk](http://www.southerncarpcup.co.uk) Prizes are £1,500 for first, £800 second and £400 third.

### Club gives up Calder rights

AN ANGLING club has relinquished control of a stretch of river due to a lack of activity by its members.

Officials from Warrington AA decided to give up the right to fish a section of the River Calder after a review revealed they had not received a single report from members in over two years.

To report catches from club waters email [frank@warrington-anglers.org.uk](mailto:frank@warrington-anglers.org.uk)

### Silvers boost for Staffs club

A POPULAR club hopes to improve silverfish sport with a large stocking of roach to one of its waters. The Cricket Ground Pool, controlled by Staffordshire's Victoria & Biddulph AS, has received the latest boost of several thousand fish up to 1lb.

Officials have also revealed that a large consignment of skimmers are also expected to be released into the water in the coming weeks.

For more details on the outfit visit [www.vbas.4t.com](http://www.vbas.4t.com)

**SCENTED BAITS FOR BOWLER AT SEA PAGE 24**