

### On-site shop's fate hangs in the balance

A FISHERY which opened a small tackle shop without the necessary permission from the local council has requested official consent.

Hampshire's Watmore Farm Fishery decided to sell tackle from a mobile caravan on site, but officials confirmed the move broke rules as the structure was 'out of keeping with the rural nature of the area, detracted from views from the adjacent public footpath and was detrimental to the character of the countryside'.

Bosses have now submitted plans to timber clad the caravan to help it blend in better.

A decision on whether the proposal will be accepted is due on February 27.

### Incentive to boost tourism

OFFICIALS trying to boost angling tourism in Northern Ireland are offering workers in the fishing industry grants of up to £1,000 to enhance their business.

The Loughs Agency is asking people in the Carlingford and Foyle regions to bid for the cash in an effort to try and attract more visitors to the area.

Information on how to apply for funding can be requested from the Loughs Agency on 02871 342100 or by visiting: [www.loughs-agency.org](http://www.loughs-agency.org)

### Beach anglers in the sin bin

ANGLERS who regularly fish the Norfolk coast are being urged to take their litter home after numerous complaints from the public.

Great Yarmouth Borough Council has received a number of complaints by people who walk the beaches at Gorleston-on-Sea, suggesting that anglers are leaving litter and discarded fishing hooks which are a hazard to children and dogs.

Environmental rangers will be heading to the beach over the coming weeks to urge those fishing to clear up after their sessions and dispose of their litter more responsibly.

**ALL THE MATCH NEWS, RESULTS AND FIXTURES START PAGE 55**

# Get bait down with a dropper

## WHEN RIVERS ARE RUNNING COLD AND COLOURED THERE'S NO BETTER WAY TO ENSURE FEED AND HOOKBAIT STAY TOGETHER

**S**INCE Christmas, we've been faced with different river conditions virtually every week. Levels have varied from low and clear to several metres of floodwater on, so it's anyone's guess what we're going to be faced with over the next few weeks until the season comes to an end.

Over the past few sessions, with the venues I've fished being coloured and cold, I've had a lot of success by keeping my feed areas really tight and building swims up very slowly rather than piling a lot of bait into the peg in one go.

One approach that has been working really well is feeding with a bait dropper. It's a style that's often ignored, but if you're faced with a situation where the river is pushing through fast but the fish don't want groundbait and are shying away from a feeder, it's a highly effective way to catch.

Over the years I've won a lot of matches using a bait dropper in conjunction with a pole, a straight lead or a heavily-shotted

running line rig, and it works well for all species. I use Fox bait droppers, which come in three sizes and can be changed in stem length and weighting.

Baits inside the dropper can be anything, of course, but I've had most of my recent successes using either maggots or chopped worm and caster. These have caught me a wide variety of species.

Depending on the swim you are fishing you can either introduce feed with a pole or with a rod, but the most important thing is to ensure you put it in the right place. It's not good lowering the dropper in upstream and laying a bed of feed directly in front of you if you can't get your rig settled there, so I normally introduce it slightly downstream.

The exact spot where you put the dropper is always determined by the rig itself, so always spend plenty of time selecting the correctly sized running line or pole float before you put the baitdropper in.

It's a very different approach to throwing loosefeed in, as much of the bait fed that way will be swept away in the current.

Always remember that with a bait dropper, your bait is

being introduced exactly where you want it, so build the swim slowly and feed to the response of the fish. If you're getting a lot of bites then that's an indication to put more and more feed in to hold the fish, whereas if bites are at a premium, keep the feed to a minimum.

The main thing in situations like these is that you know you are definitely fishing over your

feed. I know I've said this before, but you can easily add more, whereas you can't take it out once you've overfed the swim!

**“If bites are at a premium keep the feed to a minimum”**



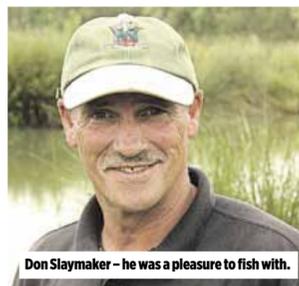
**Dave Harrell**  
BRITAIN'S BEST RIVER ANGLER TELLS ALL – ONLY IN **AnglingTimes**

### THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

The news that I had been dreading came last week when I had a phone call from Wayne Swinscoe who told me that Don Slaymaker had died. We all knew it was coming, as Don had been fighting cancer for the past year, but it was still hard to take when I was told he'd died.

We shared some memorable times together with the Shakespeare Superteam in the 1980s, and it was a real pleasure to fish with him. We always had loads of laughs, but when it came to the serious business of fishing the whole team could be relied upon to get results.

Don was a fantastic float angler and



Don Slaymaker – he was a pleasure to fish with.



**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](http://www.daveharrellangling.com)  
He is also available for one-to-one and group coaching sessions on the River Wye throughout the river season. Bookings are now being taken for the rest of this season and also for the summer months.  
For more details contact Dave at: [info@daveharrellangling.com](mailto:info@daveharrellangling.com)  
You can also follow Dave's daily and weekly exploits on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/DaveHarrellAngling](http://www.facebook.com/DaveHarrellAngling) and on Twitter at: [www.twitter.com/dave\\_harrell](http://www.twitter.com/dave_harrell)

## Dave's River Fishing Clinic

Do you have a question for our resident river expert? If so, just send it in on an email to: [info@daveharrellangling.com](mailto:info@daveharrellangling.com) and Dave will sort you out. In addition to having your question answered, there's a set of DH Angling floats up for grabs for the best question used.

### IS STICKYMAG A TRICK WORTH TRYING?

**Q** Is Stickymag worth trying and if so, how do I go about using it? *Roger Weston*

**A** Stickymag enables balls of maggots to be fired a long way out. Most anglers opt for a swimfeeder instead, but if you do want to try it, get hold a product called Gum Arabic.

Make sure your maggots are dust-free, then dampen them very slightly before adding the powder. It only takes a few minutes to get the maggots to stick together, and if you need weight to fire them out a long way, just add a small amount of fine aquarium gravel.

I always have a small tub of dry maize on my bait stand when I

use Stickymag, and I put my hands in this to make sure they're dry. Then I form a ball of sticky maggots in whatever size I want to use and fire it out with a catapult. Ensure your float is going to the same place to start with by clipping the line up on the reel. Then, as long as you land your Stickymag balls near the float, you should soon start catching!



### WHICH FLOATS WORK IN SHALLOW WATER?

**Q** The river that I fish is very shallow and many of the swims are only 2ft to 3ft deep. The river is about 20m wide and I'm never sure which float or shooting pattern to use, as it's quite fast-flowing. What would you recommend? *John Sefton*

**A** A lot of people make the mistake on rivers of always using floats that are attached top and bottom. In very shallow water these can often be difficult to control, as you'll need enough weight to cast to the distance, but not very much down the line in such shallow water.

My advice would be to use a small waggler. My own patterns of Standard or Thick Speci Wagglers should be perfect for the job. Use a float that's heavy enough to easily get to the far bank and then put just one or two No8 or No6 shots down the line. Cast the rig downstream in order to get good control, and if you can select a swim with good far-bank cover 15m to 25m down from where you are stationed, I think there's a very good chance you could have plenty of bent rod action!



**DH ANGLING WINNER FLOATS**

Small Speci Wagglers are perfect for shallow swims.

### WHY CAN'T I KEEP BREADFLAKE ON THE HOOK?

**Q** I've been trying to catch chub with breadflake, but every time I reel in the bait has gone. What am I doing wrong? *Andy Smith*

**A** First, ensure you are using a big enough float. For me, that means either Alloy Avons or Barbel Missiles in 8g or 10g sizes. Bulk all the shot or use an olivette well down the line.

For a size 6 or 8 hook, rip a piece of bread from a sliced loaf and pinch it on to the hook shank, leaving the point slightly exposed. The bread will swell and soften, and when a chub takes it a firm strike is all that's required to set the hook.



Use big floats like this for breadflake.

Every time you strike it off at the end of a trot you'll feed the swim, but if there are lots of fish about you can introduce more feed in the form of groundbait with casters and hemp.



I introduce bait via a dropper downstream. How far down depends on the flow on the day.

Fox bait droppers come in three sizes, and stem lengths and weightings can be easily changed.

I learned a lot from him. It feels strange to think that I won't see him ever again, but I'll tell you one thing. If ever there is a life after death, there is one hell of a good team coming together up there.

I really hope there is, as already in the team will be Frank Barlow, Ted Stokes and Steve Toone. Don will add even more talent to the line-up. Rest in peace mate, I'll miss you.

### TRENT EVENT SET TO SELL OUT

I love fishing three-day river festivals and was delighted to get some information from Alan Henry, who's running a competition event again on the tidal Trent

