

More clubs for Trust's Sea Awards

THE ANGLING Trust has revealed that 2012 saw an increase in the number of clubs using its Specimen Sea Awards Scheme.

Both the amount of clubs and number of entries submitted rose by over 20 per cent.

The annual competition, which opens on December 1 and closes on November 30 the following year, is open to all Trust members and members of affiliated clubs.

It is divided into two sections - fish caught from boats, or for fish caught from the shore, piers, harbour walls or breakwaters.

For further details about the scheme go to www.anglingtrust.net

Body is found after 11 weeks

THE BODY of an angler who went missing during a fishing trip 11 weeks ago has finally been recovered.

Robert Heaton disappeared during a visit to the River Eden in Cumbria on November 16 2012, with his cap and fishing tackle left on the bankside.

His body was discovered by a member of the public on marshland at Castletown near Rockcliffe, after several searches of the Solway Firth area by authorities.

The father of two would have been 42 last week.

Holgan Farm top three share 300lb

WHILE most anglers struggled for bites in the recent freezing conditions that hit the UK, the contestants taking part in a match at Holgan Farm match were in bagging mode, with the top three sharing over 300lb.

Despite temperatures hovering just above zero, the carp in the Match Lake at the Pembrokeshire fishery were still hungry, and Keith Moore took advantage by using waggler and pellet at full-depth for a 128lb 1oz winning net.

Venue owner Ian Heaps also broke into triple figures to secure second spot with 108lb 12oz, while Colin Bates' 73lb effort was enough for third.

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Control your float for roach success

CAST DOWNSTREAM AND CATCH MORE WITH MY BRILLIANT STAGGERED FEEDING APPROACH

A DAY OUT with the Angling Trust's Co-ordinator Martin Salter started off very frustratingly because of a very strong downstream wind, which at times made running-line float control a real nightmare.

Most anglers would probably have resorted to a feeder, but while feeder fishing might be a good solution when the target fish are barbel and chub, it's not as effective for roach and dace. So this week, with more strong winds likely in the near future, I thought it might be useful to take you through some things you can do to overcome the problem.

The biggest mistake that I see anglers making when casting a float rig into moving water is to cast the rig either upstream or directly in front of them. It's wrong even when conditions are calm, and it's the worst possible thing to do when the wind is gusting downstream.

Where you cast your rig should always be determined by the depth of the swim, current speed, target species and distance out in the river. If you're loosefeeding at this time of year there is no way the fish

will ever be directly in front of you, so casting in front or upstream is a complete waste of time.

Do it this way and you will immediately get a bow forming in the line, and as the float travels down the swim this bow will become more and more of a problem, creating drag and dragging your float off line. No self-respecting fish will ever take it that way, so you need to give yourself the best possible opportunity of presenting the bait as perfectly as you can over short areas of the swim.

The way to tackle downstream wind is to line your fish up a fair way down from where you are sitting or standing. You can do this by loosefeeding in front or slightly upstream, as your feed will carry a long way down the swim, particularly if the river is pacy.

If you feed consistently in the same area you will eventually find that most of the fish will intercept the bait at a certain point where the maggots or casters are hitting or nearing the bottom. Bear in mind we're talking winter fishing here - things can be different when the fish are more active.

By casting a waggler or a Bolo/Avon rig



Martin Salter and I used similar tactics to beat the wind and land these quality roach.



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

downstream and having your rig shotted correctly, its possible to pick off fish before the line gets out of control, but you'll often find that you need to mend the line back to give yourself a straight line to the float again as the shot settle.

You can actually turn the situation to your advantage by using what I call 'intermittent feeding'. As the float travels

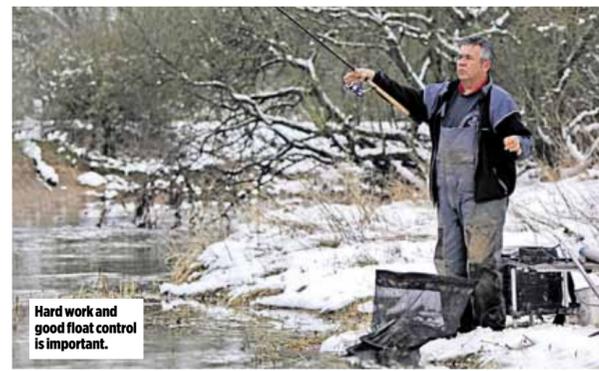
down the swim, feed on the same line, but in three or four different spots, each about two to four metres apart, to create a constant trickle of bait that will hit the bottom in different places. By making sure your rig is giving you the best possible presentation over these spots under the water and downstream from you, there is a very good chance that you'll be covering

fish in two or three different areas.

Always keep the shotted simple when it's windy. For my Bolo and Avon rigs it's a bulk and a single No6 or No4 dropper, while for my waggler fishing I simply string out shot to the equivalent of a No6 or No4 for every 2ft or 3ft of water.

Make sure the float is heavy enough to easily get the distance and remember to keep feeding the different areas of the swim all the time, even if it's only five or six maggots to each one.

Oh, and I'm pleased to report that these tactics worked well for Martin and me on our day out together. We eventually got things working well enough to put a good bag of fish together, including some quality roach!



Hard work and good float control is important.



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. 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 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's River Fishing Clinic

DO YOU have a question for our river expert? Send an email to: 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.

WHY DO FISH GO OFF THE FEED AFTER AN HOUR?

Q On my local river I always start off by throwing in a few handfuls of maggots and catch roach immediately, but after an hour the bites always seem to dry up. Any tips on how

to keep the fish feeding longer, please? *David Constable*

A You may have read about feeding 'little and often', but it's important to think about how much 'little' really is.

By throwing in handfuls of bait at the start you are attracting fish into the swim quickly. They're hungry, but maybe you are filling them up too quickly.

I would trickle bait in steadily and only introduce 4-6 maggots every cast to start. Sometimes you can keep fish feeding with even less - you can always put more in but you can't take it out. Go easy at the start and you'll catch more.



DH ANGLING WINNER FLOATS

Steady feeding by hand or with a catty is the best way to build up a swim.

SHOULD I SET UP A STICK, A WAGGLER OR BOTH?

Q I'm new to river fishing and although I have a lot to learn, I've really enjoyed it so far. How do I decide whether to use a stick float or a waggler, or should I always set both up?

Lee Brown

A This is quite a complex question as you haven't mentioned the river you are fishing, the species you are after, or how deep and fast it is, but I'll try and answer it as a general question that you and other anglers around the country might find useful.

First of all, to do a river job properly you need a good collection of floats. There should never be such a thing as a favourite float because every swim is different, and you need to use the right float to tackle it.

If the river you are fishing is wide enough to fish two lines then it's a great idea to set up a top-and-bottom attached float for close in work and a waggler for further out.

Bear in mind you should only fish as far as where you can get your bait to, so it's no use chucking a massive waggler to the far side if you can only get your feed to the middle.

If you take a look at my website you'll be able to access shotted patterns for all the floats you will ever need on the majority of UK rivers.



You need a good selection of floats to cover different swims.

WHERE CAN I GET FLOATS WITH TOPS I CAN SEE?

Q I'm colour blind and can only see yellow or black top floats. My tackle dealer only has a few in yellow. Any idea where I can get a full range of river floats with yellow tops? *Alan Lewis*

A This is an easy one! One in 10 anglers suffers from colour blindness the same as you, but they can see yellow. It's also a very useful colour for people who aren't colour blind to use in shady swims created by far bank.

You can buy yellow tops in all my float patterns, either from the shops listed on the stockist page on my website or through my online shop. All patterns and



Various coloured tops are useful. Yellow is often best for colour-blindness.

sizes are in stock, so have a word with your local tackle shop to get them in for you, or you can order online if the shop won't get them in for whatever reason.