



Paul's 50lb 4oz net of bream. 50lb of slabs at Shiplate CARP don't always have to be the primary target if you want to frame in a commercial fishery match, as Paul Chapman proved when he banked this 50lb 4oz net of bream during a contest at Shiplate Farm. The venue regular drew peg 5 on the Main Lake at the Somerset complex and used pole and maggots at 13m to take slabs to 5lb for second place. For more details visit www.shiplatefarmfishery.co.uk

Hefty fines for Thames Water

A UTILITY company has been forced to shell out almost £15,000 in fines and costs after it was found guilty of allowing a lethal pollution incident to occur. Officials from the Environment Agency brought the case against Thames Water after it found chub, dace, perch and roach dead in Oxfordshire's Faringdon Stream. An investigation was launched and a judge at Oxford Magistrates Court found the outfit guilty of allowing sewage to enter the waterway over a two-day period. EA officer Jack Knight has been heavily involved in the case and said: "This sends a clear message to other companies - if you fail in your responsibilities you may be prosecuted."

Tackle deal for Rowley Society

AN ANGLING club from the West-Midlands received a welcomed boost after securing a sponsorship deal with a local tackle firm. Rowley & District Angling Society signed a two-year deal with Birmingham-based company, Gold Label Tackle, which is owned by well-known specimen angler Terry Eustace. They will now supply the club with prizes for all of its competitions, starting on Friday, March 1 at the club's annual presentation evening.

CUT OUT YOUR 2-FOR-1 DAY TICKET PAGE 13

Try my 'baby's hand' for barbel



Five maggots on a size 12 or 10 hook - great for chub and barbel.

MAKE THIS ONE THE BEST FINAL WEEK OF THE SEASON YOU'VE EVER HAD

FOR AS long back as I can remember the last week of the river season has nearly always been a good one.

Levels are usually back to normal and the air and water temperatures are on the up. Last year was one of the best ever as barbel and chub went on a feeding spree and I'm hoping this year ends in the same way. I've got a very busy last few days on the Wye and I'm hoping that the river will be low enough to use a tactic that has caught me a lot of big fish in recent years. The method I am referring to is deadly for chub and barbel and involves plenty of loose feed and five maggots on a size 12 or 10 hook.



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

This trick works anywhere where there are good numbers of chub and barbel. As the water temperature rises these fish seem to wake up from their slumbers and go on a feeding frenzy so you'll need a lot of bait to get the best results. I take at least six pints of maggots with me but have used as much as eight pints in a full March day. Swim selection is important of course. Ideally you want to be on a swim that is around four to six feet deep with plenty of pace. I love fishing swims that shallow up 30 to 40 metres below me, as it's a pretty good bet that if you find one like this it will hold plenty of fish in the last couple of weeks of the river season. Float selection needs to be big and bold, so for me that means a Thick Speci Wagglers or a No2 Truncheon. Both floats have plenty of buoyancy at the top and this is important as you need to be able to drag the hook and the line along the

bottom sometimes. A float with a thin top would just drag under every time the hook touched the bottom.

FIND THE DEPTH

First of all you need to establish the depth so thread a small float on to your line, top and bottom, and tie a 1.5oz or 2oz bomb to the end. Now, cast this 'plumbing rig' well downstream, as much as 40m away from you and work it back towards you. Feel the bomb hit the bottom and then slacken off the line. You then want to see the float pop up to the surface for a second or two before disappearing. Take your time doing this process as it will determine how you are going to fish for the rest of the day. Once you are happy that you've got a mental picture of the river contours and depths, now is the time to select the right float



A Wye barbel taken on the 'baby's hand'.

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 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.

WHEN I AM LINK LEGERING, SHOULD I USE A BOMB OR A FEW SHOT?

Q When legering for species like roach, is it best to use a bomb or a few shot on a paternoster rig?
Steve Jordan

A Link legering is one of my favourite styles and has won me a lot of money when I couldn't get a bite on any other method. You need a 10ft, soft action bomb rod with a fine tip that is strong enough to cope with the flow. I use 2lb or 3lb mainlines with 3ft to 4ft hi-tech hooklengths of 0.08mm to

0.10mm. These are tied to fine wire hooks from size 22 to 18. Using shot on a paternoster is better than a bomb as you can adjust the load easily. And don't think you can only use SSG shot, as I've had success with a string of BBs or even several No4 shot. Loosefeed the swim little and often and search around with the link leger. The flow will often take the shot into the right place at the bottom of any nearside ledge.



Use SSG or BB shot to make your link leger.

DO YOU STILL USE CLOSED FACE REELS?

Q I was watching one of your old videos recently where you were using and talking about closed face reels. Do you still use them and are they better than open faced for river fishing?
Ray Beardsley

A The videos you are referring to were shot in 1989 and while those old Abu 507 reels suited me back then I haven't used one for many years. Open-faced reels have developed so much since those days and they are all I use now.



Open-faced reels have improved.

CAN YOU TELL ME WHICH FLOATS SHOULD I PICK FOR DEEP RIVER VENUES?



Use a bolo float in a strong flow.

Q I fish a river that is around 16ft to 18ft deep in places. Should I be using a slider or a bolo rig?
Robert Smith

A The answer to this question is all down to the speed of the flow. If the current is pushing through with any sort of decent pace then I'd use a long rod and bolo approach every time. If however, there is very little flow it might pay you to use a long straight peacock or bodied slider,

depending on how far out you want to fish. Slider fishing is becoming a bit of a lost art in this country as most people reach for a feeder or bomb rod when faced with depths over 12ft. It's a skill worth practicing though as there are days when you can catch more on a slider than with a bomb or feeder.



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 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

“ These fish wake up from their slumbers and go on a feeding frenzy so you'll need a lot of bait **”**

and where you can get your feed to will determine this. Usually, because you are using thick, 6lb line, you will need a Speci or a Truncheon taking from 3SSG to 5SSG. Most of the shot goes around the float to lock it on to the line and then all you need is a No4 shot down the line for every two feet of water depth. If the swim is only four feet deep therefore you'll need just two No4

shot down with the bottom shot about 18ins from the hook. **FEED REGULARLY** To get the best results you must feed the swim regularly. I mentioned recently about my intermittent feeding style and the same thing applies with this method, just with more bait. My routine is cast, feed, run the float through a few yards, feed

again, run the float further down and feed again at the bottom of the swim before you reel back in. By feeding at least three times every cast you will soon create a steady stream of feed all through the swim. You can take it a stage further too by feeding in different places and I can't stress too much the importance of this feeding approach. If you feed just once every cast you won't catch as many fish - it's as simple as that really. Start off with two or three maggots on a size 16 or 14 hook as this will catch roach and dace as well as big fish, but once you connect with a big chub or barbel change things up to a 12 or a 10 and get the 'baby's hand' on!