

### Trio of victories on the bounce at Oakfield

JOHN Beesley has been in a rich vein of form at Oakfield Fishery, bagging a trio of victories on the bounce.

The venue regular's winning streak started after he drew peg 2 on Swallow Lake at the Buckinghamshire complex and used bomb and corn tactics for 77lb of carp.

Just days later he found himself on peg 10 on Red Kite Lake and adapted to the tough conditions to catch 34lb 6oz on dead maggot.

He then sealed the hat-trick on Red Kite, using the same tactic for 11 mirrors and commons that tipped the scales at 52lb.

### Signs up to stop feuding

PLANS have been put in place to erect signs in an attempt to prevent a long-running conflict between anglers and cyclists on a popular stretch of river.

A meeting involving the Ancholme Users Group and councillors from North Lincolnshire Council was held to discuss the problem between fishermen who use poles, and cycle users, on the River Ancholme at Brigg, after numerous incidents involving the two groups had been reported to the council.

Advisory signs will now be put in place along the Scunthorpe & District Angling Club waterway, where regular matches are held, to help prevent further disputes.

### Major fish kill on Dublin's River Dodder

AN ESTIMATED 500 fish have died in a major fish-kill on the River Dodder in Dublin.

It is believed the deaths were caused by a discharge of industrial waste or dumping, and officials from Inland Fisheries Ireland have taken samples from the waterway, around Old Bawn Bridge in Tallaght, for examination.

A spokeswoman reported that hundreds of fish – of various species – were killed. She said: "We are confident we know the source but we are continuing our investigations."

**ALL THE MATCH RESULTS, NEWS AND DATES ARE ON PAGES 56-64**

## 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.

### WHY STORE FEEDERS ON WINDERS?

**Q** I know you store float rigs on winders, but do you ever do the same with river feeder rigs?  
*Tom Bryant*

**A** To be honest I've never thought of putting a feeder rig on a winder – it takes so little time to set up I can't see the point. Also, you would end up with joining knots all over the place, something I wouldn't want when I'm going for fish like barbel.

Winders for running line and pole rigs are a great idea, but keep your feeders in a box and make them up fresh every time or, alternatively, leave them stored on a rod in a hard rod case.

### HOW DO YOU STORE MAGGOTS?

**Q** What is the best thing to keep maggots in when I store them in my fridge? *Jan West*

**A** If I'm keeping a volume of maggots in a fridge for a while I always store them in old sawdust. It's the stuff that the maggots arrive at the tackle shops from the bait farms in, so have a word with your dealer if you need some. They should have plenty every week, which would probably be otherwise thrown away.

This old sawdust lasts for ages and it's what I keep my maggots in if I want to turn them to casters. A small sprinkling of water keeps it slightly damp and stops the bait from shrinking.

On the morning of fishing, I riddle the sawdust off and replace with a couple of handfuls of fine maize flour. This is then riddled off on the bank to leave me

with clean, dry bait.



## A LATE-SEASON TRIP TO A NARROW STRETCH

# Small, but perfectly formed

**A** FEW winter chub sessions on the Warwickshire Avon near Rugby had failed to produce anything sizeable, so I decided to try further downstream, heading towards Coventry.

I got in touch with the Plough Angling Society, which controls over 100 pegs, and before long I was having a guided tour of this small, narrow river with father and son Dave and Dale Stringfellow.

They told me there were plenty of big chub here, and that club matches had been won with over 40lb – just what I wanted to hear, and I'd now got access to a place 15 minutes from home where I could go for short sessions.

There are some very good pegs throughout the length, and for my latest session I went to the bottom end for a few hours to try and catch a few chub.

I wanted to floatfish, and we both wished to move into several different swims during the afternoon if conditions dictated.

I had already found a few 'banker' swims, but I set about trying a few different ones this time. My tackle was dead simple for a roving approach – a



## Dave Harrell

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12ft rod and a reel loaded with 5lb (0.20mm) line. Kevin had a straight lead set-up on an 11ft rod with 5lb line to a size 10 hook, and a selection of pole rigs from 0.5g upwards, including a few flat floats to cover the pacier parts of the river. The chopped worm would be fed via a bait dropper, and it was Kevin who landed the first fish, a 3lb chub, on legered breadflake.

A few pegs below I snared a couple of decent chub on a 2AAA Thin Speci Waggler at the full 5ft depth with just two No8s down the line. Double maggot on a size 16 hook to 0.14mm hooklength and very light feeding was key to getting bites here.

Soon I made my way back upstream to find Kevin playing another decent chub. This one had snaffled a whole lobworm, fished on a size 10 hook on a light pole rig on the edge of the fast current and a nearside slack. His beefy No16 elastic was essential to beat the snags.

My next swim was about 6ft deep, with all the flow running down the inside. Here I used a 3g Alloy Avon rig with an olivette stopped 18ins up, and a No6 dropper about 10ins from a size 14 hook holding three maggots. Chub number three, a 3lb fish, didn't take long to show itself,



Kevin got in on the action with this Warwickshire Avon chub approaching 4lb.

## OF RIVER BRINGS CHUB TO BOMB AND FLOAT



Best fish of the day was my fat and fighting-fit 4lb chub.

but I couldn't catch any more so, with the sun starting to drop, I moved on to my third and final swim of the day.

This one really looked the part, as a huge raft of rubbish had built up at the bottom of it and I felt sure that there must be some chub lurking under there.

I plumbed-up to find around 4ft of water and changed my float over to a 4No4 Shallow Water Stick with strung-out No6 shot. I tied a size 14 Kamasan Animal Spade hook direct to the 5lb mainline, as this was most definitely a 'take no prisoners' swim. If I did hook a fish right down near the raft of rubbish I was pretty sure that I would need to pile on the pressure or lose it. As 'jungle warfare' swims go, this one was right up there with the best!



I bully a chub out from under a raft of debris.

I fed the swim lightly with maggots for a few minutes before putting the rig in. I felt this would settle any fish down near the rubbish and get them feeding hard. Kevin had packed up and was now sat behind me, telling me about a third good chub he'd landed on lobworm. "Watch this," I said, as I flicked the lightly-shotted rig into the water. "Kevin, if ever there was a swim where I should catch a chub

on the first run down, this is it!"

The float travelled down the swim and I slowed it down as it approached the raft of rubbish. I eased off the pressure and the float was now just inches from where I expected the fish to be lying. Suddenly it shot under and a firm strike saw the rod arc over. "Told you," I said to Kevin, who had already decided that the next cast would be his if I landed this fish!

A perfectly-formed 4lb chub was soon in the landing net before Kevin added its twin and I finished off with yet another. It was an exciting end to an interesting day where a variety of methods and approaches had resulted in some good fish. I'm already looking forward to next season when we can get back on there again!