

### Late bream flurry rewards patience

AFTER three hours of inaction Shaun James almost packed up during the latest event on the River Wensum, but he will be glad he sat it out as a manic late flurry ended with him winning the day with 53lb 8oz of bream.

The Dukes AC man was taking part in a club event on the waterway and struggled to get a single bite before a shoal of slabs took a liking to his groundbait feeder and worm attack.

Weights then slumped dramatically, with Nigel Goose taking 2lb 8oz for second and Russell Urry rounding off the frame with a meagre 4oz.

**SAVE 40% ON AnglingTimes**

TURN TO PAGE 43 FOR DETAILS

### Another water for Partridge

BOSSSES at one of the UK's most popular commercial fisheries have announced the opening date of a new venue that promises to be a first-class day-ticket water.

Cheshire's Partridge Lakes is home to a variety of waters and the newly constructed Holbar Lake is set to open on March 29 and will give pleasure anglers the opportunity to fill their nets with carp, barbel, chub, crucians and skimmers.

It boasts 46 pegs that can all be reached by car, with depths of up to 20ft to ensure all-year-round sport.

To find out more visit: [www.partridgelakes.co.uk](http://www.partridgelakes.co.uk)

### Flood fears over lake plan

PLANS by a councillor to build a lake for his family to fish have been met with anger by local residents who fear the location of the venue could lead to their properties being flooded.

Bristol's Dr Hugh Pratt has secured planning permission to create a three-and-a-half-acre fishery in the village of Wraxall but homeowners have raised concerns that the move could cause chaos following heavy rainfall.

The area is regularly waterlogged, with several houses narrowly avoiding flooding a few years ago.

**BOWLER'S TOP STILLWATER TARGETS P 24**

# Revealed: £10,000 river match



**HAVE** felt for a long time that river match fishing needs a shot in the arm in the form of a new big-money event.

It's been great to see various commercial fishery competitions evolve over the last few years and offer anglers the opportunity to win a big cash prize.

Now, if my new idea comes to fruition, river anglers will also have the chance to pick up some big prizes in the future.

I've already had an initial meeting with the Angling Trust about my new competition idea. If we can now find enough

## Dave Harrell

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

match organisers who are willing to run a qualifying round, it could be 'all systems go' as early as next season.

In the same way that it organises the popular Fish O'Mania competition, the administration of the new river event would be controlled by the Angling Trust, with a series of qualifying rounds around the country from June 16 onwards.

We're looking for around 20 qualifiers, with three anglers from each match going through to a two-day final at the end of October or early in November.

Subject to entry, I see no reason why the winner couldn't be walking away with at least a £10,000 cash prize - maybe more if we secure a sponsor, which will be the next step once we've got the qualifying venues arranged.

There won't be any major work involved in hosting a qualifier, and in most cases I would imagine it would just be another match where regular events already take place.

The only difference would be that the qualifying match would

require the angler to enter via the Angling Trust. After that it would be run as a normal open match with pools on the day, plus of course, potential additional big-money benefits for the three qualifiers who get through to the final.

By hosting a qualifier, the venue would also benefit from anglers entering other opens on the water for practice purposes.

### HOST A MATCH

If you or someone you know might be interested in hosting a qualifier between June and October, then please get in touch as soon as possible by sending an email to me at: [info@daveharrellangling.com](mailto:info@daveharrellangling.com)

I will send you full details by return and, hopefully, we'll get the 20 qualifying matches we require to make it happen.

Without organisers to run the qualifiers the competition can't work, so if you're as passionate about river fishing as I am, let's make this one the start of more big-money river events in the future!



The individual champ could pocket 10 grand!

## ANGLING TRUST COMPETITION WILL SEE THE WINNER WALK AWAY WITH AT LEAST 10 GRAND!



The match could rekindle interest in river contents.

### What a season!

THE RIVER season's over and I can't ever remember one quite like it in terms of how much water we've had running through.

I was booked to do a floatfishing feature on the Wye on June 17 but I arrived at the river to find it full to the top and the colour of chocolate! All was not lost, though, as a heavy feeder and halibut pellet approach accounted for some excellent barbel on a day when most people had gone home or fished in the slack water for a few small fish.

I went on to learn a whole lot more about barbel and caught many low doubles and loads of 9lb-plus specimens.

On the match front, ever since I first won the then John Smith's Championship at the Evesham Angling Festival in 1988 I'd wanted to win it again. This season it all came good when 13lb 2oz barbel took a liking to my halibut pellet on the second cast of the match, securing me the £6,000 top prize on its own!

My three-day Hereford Festival performance involved three very different approaches. Barbel again played a part, though, and it's been that sort of season for me as virtually everywhere I've gone I've caught some.

I achieved three personal bests in terms of fish caught. My 13lb 2oz barbel, accounting for most of the 14lb I weighed in at the Evesham Angling Festival on the Warks Avon, was my biggest ever.

I then went on to catch two more personal bests, a 3lb 10z perch and a 6lb 7oz chub, from the River Wye.

All three fish were memorable, but I'm hoping to better all three next season if I can!



As this bag shows, roach and dace have featured strongly on the River Wye.

### And finally...

WITH the closed season upon us, it's time to have a break and recharge the batteries. I've got a load of preparation to do for the new season, and plenty of work to do for my company as well!

I hope you've enjoyed reading my series as much as I've enjoyed doing it, and thanks to everyone who has taken the time to write to me. I'll be back in June - see you next season.