

Dropback

Issue 20 - Dec 2004



Pike Anglers' Club of Great Britain

The club for ALL pike anglers since 1977



www.waltonpac.org.uk

RO's Ramblings

Now here's a surprise, I did not expect to be penning this so soon, two editions of Drop Back this year (I think)! Wonders will never cease. I would like to thank those who have contributed to this issue, some old favourites and a few new contributors. If only those who promised me articles, would get round to writing them, we would easily have two editions every year!

We are now into December and we have only had one frost! The weather has again turned very mild, water temperatures are still well up, visibility on the Thames is about 3 feet. What has happened to the cold winter so many have forecast? I think all the berries are on the trees because we had a good summer, not too hot and dry, never mind an indication of a hard winter to come. B*ll*x!

The mild weather is making the piking harder too. The prey fish are not shoaled up tight, they are scattered far and wide. The poor old pike is having to work for his supper. Some of the Thames fish are looking thin and scruffy, by now they should be fat and feeding hard in preparation for their new year spawning. This could be a bad year, poor conditioned fish rarely survive the spawning rigours! Lets hope I am wrong.

We have a few things in the pipeline at the moment. I am negotiating access to previously unfished water and also to a trout fishery. I will pass the details on as soon as I have confirmation.

After struggling with guest speakers I then end up with two wanting to attend the same month, I can't win. I have postponed one, who previously let me down and will try to book him for another month next year.

I am still open to suggestions, what about an old tackle sale in the new year, clear out the shed/garage, make room for all the new gear you got for Christmas. I will await your suggestions.

I will take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Tight lines,

Dave



My First Cassien Catfish

I have been travelling to the South of France most years since the early 1980's. I was there the year John Allen caught the first huge catfish, a 7 foot specimen, guessed to weigh around the 200lb mark. My interest in those days was carp! I fished and caught a few, but that is history and they don't have teeth.

Interests changed as did holiday destinations and then I started a family.

But for the past 5 years I have been returning to the South of France and each year have re visited Lake St Cassien. A huge expanse of water in the hills of the Esterel. Each year at some stage in our holidays I have managed to convince the family to visit the lake. Little did they know my true intent!

The lake has many bays and inlets. It also has nice sandy beaches that slop down into the clear, often shallow water. In the summer the water is almost luke-warm. Each year we have visited the lake and taken refreshment at one of the waterside restaurants, even the infamous Chez Pierres. There to gaze at the hundreds of photographs of huge carp, with the odd photo of monster catfish, large pike and zander thrown in.

This year I had decided it would be my year. In previous few years we had hired a boat and explored the various small bays and inlets. We had seen many catfish, both big and small nosing around in these areas. This was to be where I would set my trap.

The day arrived and we loaded up the car with the gear and plenty of food and cold drinks. We set off and after a short journey, arrived at the lake, we made our way down to the boat jetty and loaded all the gear into the boat, no petrol engines on the lake, except on the rescue boats. We made our way across to the far bank and quietly along the bank, entering each small bay and inlet. We did not see any fish in the east arm of the lake, so quietly worked our way around into the central arm. There were a number of carp anglers on the various points along the arm and adjacent to the huge weed beds. We avoided them and worked our way back into the shoreline and entered an inlet that went back some way. As we rounded some large rocks that jutted out into the water and blocked our view there were a number of people standing on the bank or in the shallow water, all-naked! A pleasant distraction as there were 4 women, all very fit!

We backed out of the inlet and worked our further up the shoreline. The next inlet we came to, also went back quite away. We very quietly made our way into the narrow channel. I could see a number of catfish, basking on the bottom. We loose fed some chopped meat and fish, and backed off. After a short while the catfish moved over the bait. More bait was placed and slowly we stalked our prey. One moved over and took the bait, at such close quarters the battle was epic. Eventually I jumped into the water, grasped the catfish and lifted free of the water. It was mine, I had done it. My first Cassien catfish, not a wells, but a black channel catfish, the adipose fin clearly visible on its back. The weight was irrelevant, we had no scales. The length, I would guess to be about 6mm!

I released my capture and climbed back on to the pedallo and we backed out of the inlet into the lake, once in deeper water I had a swim.

Disappointed! Not really it was a catfish from Lac St Cassien! Not a wells but so what, maybe next year!



Dave Fish

Local Venues to Pike Fish—Part 1.

River Thames from the bank

Over the years, I have been asked many times where they can fish locally for pike. Below is a list of local waters, well local to our region base in Shepperton.

I will list all types, rivers and still waters, free, day ticket and club waters. I won't be giving club addresses, too much work for me.

Free:

River Thames, most of the lower and middle Thames is free, apart from the section at Runnymede, which is owned by the National Trust.

There are 2 ways to fish the Thames, from bank or boat, if using a boat it should be licensed! I am told that if you don't go through the locks you can get away without a license, but to save the grief get a licence. For a rowing boat it is about £15 a year (January to December). Also get a life jacket!

As in all fishing in the UK you need a rod licence, don't get caught without one, I have had my rod licence checked more times in the past 2 years than in the past 20!

A weir permit is also available; this gives bank access to the weirs, a bit restricted now days due to health and safety regulations.

Areas to try:

Bank Fishing. I will start by going up river.

Walton Bridge, up and down stream of the bridge, plenty of jacks especially close in. There are much bigger fish around, attracted to the area by the large bream shoal that is resident here. Down stream of the bridge the entrance to the marina, can be good especially when the rivers in flood. A bit of a nightmare in the summer due to boat traffic, quietens down in the winter and late evening in summer. On the Walton side you can work your way downstream for miles.

Upstream you have the Desborough Cut, a man made channel. I have never done much from here, it is fished mainly for the barbell, always looks pikey though. If you go onto the island you can work your way all around, lots of over hanging trees. Has produced fish to low doubles for me. The area around the back of the island opposite the Red Lion pub is worth a try. There is a bomb hole in the riverbed, always has fish in it, difficult to find though. If you continue upstream you come to Shepperton weir and the junction of the river Wey and Wey Navigation canal. Don't forget to try really close in, up against the pilings!

You now have to cross the river. The best way to get to the next bit is via Docket Eddy Lane, Shepperton. The road along the towpath is one way. The area immediately at the end of the road is worth a try as are all the swims up and downstream from here. Lots of over hanging trees, moored boats and other features, watch the power lines and be careful around the boats. Area has produced fish to mid 20's.

Working downstream you come to Shepperton Lock. The entrance to lock, both up and downstream is worth a try in flood, not supposed to fish it but if you go early in the winter, no problem. This brings you back to the bank opposite where the Wey etc meet the Thames.

Next stop Chertsey bridge. Area around the bridge, is a good start. Downstream takes you to the area known as Chertsey Meads, the real Meads are on the far bank, accessible off Weir Road, turn left by the pub. This area is a long sweeping bend. On the Shepperton side the river is shallow close in and deeper on the Chertsey side. A few trees as features but not much else. The entrance to the marina on the far bank is good in flood, but difficult to access, unless you are a commando!

Upstream on the Shepperton side takes you to the lock cut, again good in flood, both above and below the lock. There is a backwater adjacent to the bridge on the far side, again good in flood, nicely sheltered by the bridge and trees and bushes. Always see grebes and cormorants working this area.

Up stream from the lock is known as Laleham Reach, worth a try all along. Around the motorway bridge, watch out for a large catfish (20+)! Lots of overhanging trees and cabbage beds, drops off nicely just over the cabbages. As you get nearer the caravan site the river is shallow on the inside of the bend. Just above the campsite, is a good area, opposite the sailing club, have a good plumb around!!

You can now fish the bank all the way to Lammas Park in Staines. Lots of features, cabbage beds, moored boats, sunken boats, overhanging trees and water intakes. Look for the features!

As you travel upstream you come to Penton Hook lock, the same applies to the cuts above and below the lock as does all other Thames locks, worth a try in the winter floods. Above the lock you continue your journey, cabbage beds, moored boats, overhanging trees. The area around the

railway bridge supports is worth a try and further upstream just below Staines bridge where the river Colne flows in. Good features if you plumb around, saw a good fish here, basking just out of the flow in the summer (20+). The bridge supports and boats moored upstream. You then come to the backwater at Lammis Park, shallow but sheltered when in flood, lots of eels here, as shown in Trev's electro fishing video. You now have to cross over the river to the Egham side. From here you can continue along the river to Runnymede. The area behind Halfords superstore is renowned for its bream shoal! Where there is food there are pike. Big food = Big pike. You then come to the motorway bridge, never fished there, far too noisy. Runnymede lock is next, as before the lock cuts in flood are worth a try. Above the lock are lots of moored boats, always worth a try. The you come to the park and when you get to the car park the fishing is controlled by the National Trust. The area just before the sty/gate is deep close in and worth a try.

I will now work downstream from Walton Bridge, I have already mentioned the entrance to the marina. You can continue downstream on the 'Walton Bank' again there are many features, I have always managed to take fish from around moored boats, plus the odd bonus perch. As you continue down you come to the Weir pub, this is just at the entrance to the lock cut for Sunbury lock. Again the lock cut is worth a try especially in flood, the lock cut here is very long. The same applies to the area below the lock, although the bank is very high here and landing fish is a major problem!

As you continue downstream there are various features, the water intake opposite Sunbury Island, being a major feature. You then continue down towards Port Hampton and Hurst Park and then to Molesey Lock. Below the lock is Hampton Court Bridge, an area more famed for its barbell, but there are pike around the bridge. Staying on the same bank, you come to the junction of the river Mole with the Thames, locally known as 'cigarette island'. Another good area to try at any time. Once below Molesey lock zander become more prolific. If you get dropped runs on natural baits, both live and dead, look for the distinctive dog teeth stab marks on the bait. On livebaits, the marks will usually be around the vent area, well in my experience.

The towpath now continues on both sides of the river. The area below Hampton Court bridge is renowned for its bream and barbel, the pike are not far away.

My knowledge below here is very limited, the islands in Thames Ditton, behind the Swan pub, produce pike, perch and zander. The south bank of the Thames below the bridge is only accessible for a limited distance. The towpath continues on the north bank (nothing to do with Arsenal!) all the way to Kingston Bridge. Kingston bridge is also renowned for its bream shoals and barbel. Many years ago when the power station was still operative, just upstream of the bridge, there was a warm water inlet. This used to attract huge shoals of fish, especially roach and consequently pike. I remember reading an article in a local paper about the capture of a 30lb pike, but that was a long time ago! If you continue downstream you come to Teddington lock, below here the Thames is tidal, a different ball game altogether and something I know nothing about!

How do I fish the Thames, keep moving around, roving, trying different features, plumbing around, not neglecting the area under my feet! If nothing comes in 20 minutes move. Travel light! If the river is in flood, get out early and try the lock cuts, before the lock keeper gets out of bed!

I will deal with the Thames from a boat, in a separate article.

Dave Fish



Odd goings on at Pippingford

Many moons ago a friend of mine discovered a series of lakes in East Sussex a few miles beyond East Grinstead on the (then) A22 at a place called Pippingford Manor, the manor was an eight sided building surrounding a grass courtyard circa 1627.

The octagonal building was now a days only college but also held the keepers lodge from where you obtained your ten shilling day ticket, after climbing down the 3 in 1 track you selected your spot from one of the four valley bottom lakes, this valley was deep and heavily wooded so much so that you only saw the lightening the thunder being totally muffled out. After a couple of trips the elderly keeper suggested (out of the blue) that we might like to night fish the place, a real surprise as the rules stated otherwise, we accepted and for one balmy summer and a pound a head had some very worthwhile nights.

As autumn and the early darkness set in the atmosphere changed, imperceptibly at first but change it did, the afternoon had been overcast with intermittent rain which held back long enough for us to arrive and settle in. I managed a quick spin around No 3 (the lower lake) as darkness fell I settled down under my brolly for a snack and some shut-eye, leaving Rick to leger bread for his favourite, the bream.

I was woken by two very loud screams that in my half asleep state seemed to come from everywhere. Rick was standing stock still by his rods, face as white as a sheet and half pointing to the wide expanse of rough hillside to our rear.

"What the bloody hell was that? Rick" scrambling out as I pulled on my parka, we both stood for quite some time staring out across the moon bright hillside, but nothing stirred, some time elapsed before I summoned up enough courage to climb the hill and take a look, and still there was nothing, at 8 o'clock and in broad daylight we climbed the steep path to the keepers office, and informed him of the occurrence.

He was not in any way surprised, telling us that a few years earlier he had received a late night phone call from a local farmer it appeared that they could see a pale blue light by the upper lake, on climbing down he spotted the light and shouted across at it, as it moved towards him across the lake he could see its reflection in the waters surface and at this point he panicked and ran up the gradient, not bad for a seventy year old man.

Once in his office he remained there till dawn as the light hovered outside, needless to say we never went there again which was a real shame, funny thing was for a long time I felt that Rick never told me everything about what he saw that night.

Eco White



HAIR OF THE DOG, A SPINNERBAIT REVIVAL

I don't know about you but when spinnerbaits first became available in the UK I was sold on them. So much so that in those pre Internet days I parted with my \$5, sent off for my Basspro catalogue and before long a boxful was on its way across the Atlantic. At the time spinnerbaits were a revelation for me as I often fished weir pools and in those pre braid days I suffered the inevitable tackle losses, losing a lure every trip on average. Due to this I was often overly cautious about where I cast my lures, and there is no doubt that this impaired my catch rate. In comparison spinnerbaits were almost snag free and partly because I was casting them into areas where plugs

would almost certainly be lost they caught plenty of fish. I was also able to put them to good use in swims on local gravel pits where I would not dare fish a plug such as amongst sunken trees. In the winter you could fish them sink and draw and still catch; truly one of the most versatile and productive lures ever to be invented.

Ten Years Ago

That was nearly ten years ago now and although still primarily a bait fisher, lure fishing is still very much part of my approach. This is simply because all methods have their day and my favourite method of catching fish is the one that catches me the most. There are definitely times when lure fishing is the most effective way of tackling a situation so I have kept reasonably in touch with the developments and fads in lure fishing. I include fluff chucking in this, mainly because when trout fishing in spring I have occasionally and accidentally caught pike. As yet my biggest pike on a fly fell for a bloodworm imitation fished almost static and later attempts with real pike flies have not been too successful. Not that this concerns me greatly as I consider fly fishing for pike to be a bit of a fad that only really has a place when all other methods are banned. Don't get me wrong I like fly fishing, but thrashing big 4"-8" home made flies out on heavy 9-12 weight outfits isn't my idea of fun. Chucking the lot over the side of the boat on a high-density line and pulling it along behind the boat isn't fly fishing either but if it catches pike on waters where no other method is allowed I approve. One thing that I did notice though when I have had a go at fly fished for pike was how much more life and movement there is in a pike fly compared even to some of the soft plastic baits. It left me wondering on the merits of tying some flies up with sufficient casting weight, perhaps on a jig head allowing a 6ft lure rod to be used, reducing the arm strain and enabling a little more action to be imparted into the lure via the rod top.



A very sorry state of affairs

These thoughts were left behind somewhere until recently when trolling lures on a local river in search of new pike holding spots. Providing a quick means of ascertaining the potential of, or searching out likely pike holding areas on new waters has got to be one of the most effective applications of lure fishing. However it was during preparation for one such trip that I considered the potential merits of trolling a large spinnerbait. The idea if a little unconventional seemed to have some merit, a large spinnerbait can certainly attract fish from distance, is practically snag free and can be fished on a slow troll in deep water, with the depth easily controlled by adjusted by the length of line out. Having sold myself on the idea I had a dig around the tackle bag only to discover my spinnerbait collection had deteriorated to a very sorry state. The ravages of pike, rotting rubber skirts, lost blades from hitting weir pool stanchions had all taken their toll as well the occasional losses. In fact I was down to just three usable baits with only one sufficient in size to be viable to troll with. However what I did have was a right mixture of spinnerbait has-beens and these coupled with a natural meanness, a propensity for DIY tackle and some fly tying equipment meant that a plan was hatched. The plan was simple enough and followed on from my earlier thoughts on pike flies. I would rejuvenate my spinnerbait collection by creating a sort of pike fly come spinnerbait hybrid and hopefully get the best of both worlds. One of the other things that always struck me about pike flies was that in general they only have visual attraction creating no noise and little vibration. Spinnerbaits can do it all but the correct use of fly tying materials should improve the visual attraction component.

Naked Spinnerbaits

The first hurdle was the quantity of materials required to dress the now naked spinnerbaits. The various pearl and sparkle tinsels, dyed furs and feathers available in the fly tiers catalogues whilst representing value for money if you're knocking up minuscule imitations of biting insects are seriously expensive when you're remaking a spinnerbait.



Halloween

Fortunately help was at hand in the shape of Halloween and a visit to the '£ pound shop' soon found plenty of witches hair material in the usual black, orange and lime green colours handily attached to a pointed hat to keep it all together. Once you have the materials the job of putting together some baits is relatively simple, as is making your own pike flies and the methods I used to rebuild the spinnerbaits using fly tying materials is equally applicable to pike flies. If you want to have a go without committing money or only have one or two baits that need rejuvenation then don't be put off, the equipment you require to fabricate some suitable spinnerbait come pike flies need not be purchased especially as you can almost certainly make do with what you already have. The list below gives you the basic tools and equipment with the low cost alternative options.



Ideal Equipment	Cost	Low cost Alternative
Fly tying vice	£20	Small bench vice or fixed clamp. Only problem would be manoeuvrability and the in ability to invert the bait without removing it from the vice.
Bobbin Holder and threader	£2 £1.50	Use your hands, though can be tricky to maintain tension whilst adding additional materials.
Strong black whipping nylon, plus red/ orange options.	£2	Any old mono over 6lb or Dacron/ braid will do.
Superglue	£2	Essential no real alternative, but nail varnish with glitter is useful if slow drying alternative or addition.
Materials Sparkle flash various colours Deer hair dyed Peacock hurl Marabou feathers	£2 per pack	Materials Halloween witches hat with hair £1 Silver tinsel and Christmas decorations Holographic wrapping paper and binding

Bound tightly against the body

So how do you go about binding all this lot together into something that might just tempt a pike to take a snap at it? The criterion that you want to achieve is to give the lure life, through shape,

colour and motion. In spinnerbaits this is usually achieved with a two colour rubber skirt with half of the rubber skirt set so that it bends backwards against the direction of retrieve making it pulse as the speed of retrieve is changed. The fly tying materials in the form of fur, feather, artificial hair and tinsels have much different properties and so require a different approach. Being finer there is the opportunity to create more movement at lower speeds but at higher speeds there is the risk of it becoming flattened by the water pressure losing shape with little movement other than a rippling motion. Basically there are two simple tying approaches that can be applied to the fly to give it life at both high and low speeds. High speed movement can be maintained by using very long lengths of material which will provide a rippling and twisting action as the lure travels through the water. Binding the materials tightly against the body so they stand almost perpendicular to the baits body will provide low speed movement. Using a combination of coloured materials tied in layers using a combination of long and tightly bound short material provides the colour and shape.

Tying Them Up

In all I tied up some six spinnerbaits using the principles described above and the following sequence of photos shows the steps taken to rebuild three of the spinnerbaits somewhat better than I can describe them.

The Tandem Spinnerbait

This bait started life as a ½oz Basspro chartreuse spinnerbait and was inspired by some of the tandem worm flies that were once popular on the trout scene. The thinking behind it was to create a large bait that could also have appeal for small pike, or to put it another way, just to be different.

The tandem was created by adding an extension to the original lure made up of a 5/0 chemically sharpened Aberdeen linked via 80lb coated wire trace. The wire trace was attached by whipping the hook and trace to the body of the spinnerbait using fine copper wire with the whole lot cemented together using superglue. A good bunch of orange hair was then added next to create the bulk of the tandem lure and left long to provide a rippling motion.



The tying was finished off with yellow deer hair tipped with brown to provide shape with some pearl sparkle for attraction. Again all cemented together with super glue to ensure any pike's teeth would not cut through and allow the whipping to unravel.

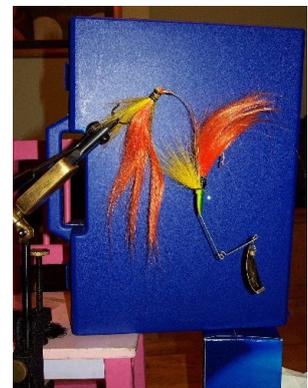


The original spinnerbait was dressed in the same way as the tandem bait but with the deer hair bound tightly to force it to stand proud of the bait with the intention of providing a pulsating action.

Finally the tandem was given a face in the shape of some holographic wrapping paper cut into two discs and taped together, with an eye added using a permanent marker. This was all cemented in place using a two-part epoxy, which forms into a solid clear indestructible lump.

The Black and Orange

Black and orange are to my mind an excellent combination, the idea this time was to provide a relatively dull bait for use in bright conditions that would not be too glary in clear water yet would provide a strong silhouette in more coloured water.



Built on the same type ½oz Basspro spinnerbait as the Tandem lure the black and orange starts once more with a long orange tail.

The black deer hair skirt is tied all the way round the body to give a more squid like appearance with plenty of pearl flash. Just as a refinement and because I had some I added peacock hurl into the equation. The hope being that the mixture of materials would add more dimensions to the movement of the bait. Hope and imagination being the key factor here.

The finished product shown along side the tandem for scale, finished off by colouring the lead body with a black marker and varnishing it with some glitter nail varnish.

The Red and White

Red and white are a classic lure combination that seems to work for all predatory fish and as this 1oz spinnerbait had started life as a red and white combination I decided to keep the same theme.



As this was a heavier bait I decided to provide it with a bulkier body than in the previous reincarnations, but kept with the long orange tail. As you can see I added a considerable quantity of white hair and pearl sparkle. The intention here was to provide less body but more bulk by layering the material.

The red and white concept was slightly compromised by an attempt at realism by providing a dark back using layers of black/green sparkle, peacock hurl and black hair. Finally the red head was completed by wrapping some orange fritz around the base of the body to cover up the whipping. Once more it was all cemented together with superglue. As an indulgence only I added some eyes.

Rejuvenated and given a swim

The final stage of the whole exercise was to see if the time and effort was worth it. One thing is for sure every one of the rejuvenated spinnerbaits will catch pike it is only their effectiveness that is in question and in part that is down to my own confidence in the individual baits. Each one was given a swim with those that I had the most confidence in being given the longest trial and predictably those are the ones that caught fish. My fishing time is far too short to conduct any sort of meaningful trial but during a mornings trolling on a local river we fished the spinnerbaits on one rod against two rods using a mixture of plugs known to be good fish catchers such as the Rapala Super Shads and Kwikfish K15's. The result was that the spinnerbaits held their own having nearly as many strikes as the two plug rods together, though they where let down by the number of fish that where lost, even with stinger hooks. It would be wrong to suggest that the newly tied baits are better than the plugs, it could have been simply that the spinnerbaits where fished higher in the water than the lures which is where the pike were on the day and so got proportionally more takes. So if you can't compare them with the plugs are they better than conventional spinnerbaits? They are certainly effective pike catchers, though that was obvious from the start by pedigree alone, however I do not think we will ever know if they are better as I cannot think of a valid way with which you could compare them. From my point of view though it was well worth the effort, for a start I got back my collection of spinnerbaits for not much money and replaced a missing link in my lure fishing armoury; I even enjoyed (sad as I am) rebuilding them.

Andy Hunt



A Night on the Beach

The temperature had dropped to four below, saltwater from the shore to ten feet out was frozen into a solid sheet of ice an inch thick that grated on the rocks and pebbles of the east facing Grimes Reach, two figures clad in heavyweight extreme weather gear stood by two nodding beach casting rods.

"I think the chap in the tackle shop was right, it's too cold out here for anything but us" vaporising breath issued like fog from their laced-up hoods, the tide had commenced to rise as the darkness gathered, normally ideal conditions but this was mid January 1963 one of the coldest winters on record.

"The dealer said he would buy back any bait we don't use, didn't he" his eyes followed the glittering line of icicles that hung like frozen washing from the lines seaward, as his companion nodded, they could feel the outer parka shells becoming rigid with the cold, the vague outline of a seagull was silhouetted momentarily against the dark oily swell its sad cry drowned by the breaking waves clatter.

"He's a decent chap, that's a fair offer, isn't it" the words were shouted against the biting cold strengthening east wind which stung their cheeks and eyes with frigid spindrift, slapping their arms against their sides they then performed a vigorous push-pull to warm up.

"Let's set the brazier up and have a hot drink, what do you think?" the other nodded an affirmative, then up the beach to their van parked forty feet to their rear, from it they pulled a pierced forty gallon drum and set it up in the lee of the van and ignited the already prepared makings, in no time a pile of driftwood was drying in the heat as the kettle steamed and the hot-plate smoked, the aroma of frying soon filled the small space.

They savoured the hot sweet tea followed by a well cooked bacon-dip sandwich with brown sauce, this ritual was repeated quite a few times over the next eight hours till dawn. "Do you think we can last the whole night?" the other grinned in the fire-glow his teeth appeared unnaturally white within the hoods gloom, then wiping his nose on his sleeve he nodded confidently.

"It will be a doddle, the chap in the shop promised to be here around seven with something hot, and we must not disappoint him must we" the brazier glowed white hot in the surrounding darkness, so they extinguished the two Tilley lamps, this seemed to enhance the gusting roar of the wind and the creaking of the rocking van.

Shortly before seven the crunch of boots on frozen pebbles heralded their saviours arrival, they heard him some time before they saw him, he found them standing around the almost pulsating brazier discussing the following weekends jaunt, the two rods maintained their vigil, still flying their pale pennants as proof of a sub-zero night.

"Well lads, was I right or was I right?" the nicely bulging ASDA carrier bag looked a treat as it was handed over, another great night (one of many) was over.

Cec White

Dates for your diary

Meeting Dates 2004/05

Monday 8th November - Trophy Presentations.

Monday 13th December - Christmas Quiz

Monday 10th January - Martin Walker—Ebro cats

Monday 14th February - Ordinary meeting

Monday 14th March - Thames Piking - Andy Hunt

Monday 11th April - Tackle Exchange

Monday 9th May - Ordinary meeting

This winter Walton PAC have exclusive access to Thorpe Park. Fishing is from both bank and your own boats on -

November 14th (Best fish 22 lbs)

December 12th

January 9th

February 6th

Contact Dave Fish for full details

Regional Organiser

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