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Difficult Times

The weather over the past few weeks has been from blazing sun to torrential rain and back again! This of course makes the fishing even more difficult, at least for some of us.

How do we fish in these constantly changing weather conditions? I am at a loss and I am hoping that one of you will put pen to paper and make a few suggestions. I will give you some of my ideas. If you don't agree then write as I would be glad to produce an article written by one of you.

In hot weather and high pressure conditions it is expected that the fish will be up in the water. I disagree and feel that the fish will be where it is coolest. They might be in the shallows but under overhanging bushes, reeds or grass which give shade.

In colder weather with low pressure the fish should be down in the water. Again I disagree having found that the fish come up in the water and don't seem to congregate in shady areas.

There are other factors to be taken into consideration. Many of us have nice shiny poles, rods and floats. Flashes from these can affect a fishes feeding behaviour and could even put fish down for a long time.

Finally try to remember that the fish are trying to gain weight for the lean times in the winter. They will feed and in fact Hoover up most of what you put in as ground bait or loose feed so to keep them in your swim feed carefully. It is too easy to overfeed but you can't take out again what you have put in.

Enjoy going fishing in warm the weather, but look out for sunburn, so don't expose too much skin.

In the rain, just take it, after all what else can you do? Especially when fishing on a match day.

Comments

The last match, 27 June, was to me an eye opener. For many months now I have nagged at you about the use of foul language. I don't mean BAD language but the FOUL stuff. You all know the words I mean and in an all male society I can find nothing wrong in using them but when there are females and children around then those words shouldn't be used. As you know I was in the Army and the language used by NCO's on the square was really foul. There was one order which came from the senior drill NCO "Ladies on parade" and the language stopped. This applied whether the "ladies" were in fact ladies, QARANC, WRENS or WRAC, or just some local scrubbers I am glad to be able to say that with one or two exceptions the use of foul language at the last match was much curtailed.

We seem to be getting a number of guests at our matches now. For some members this doesn't seem right especially as at the last match they seemed to draw the best peg, or were they just better anglers? If you have a complaint about any issue take it to a member of the committee who will try to address your complaint.

Litter I am glad to say seems to be a thing of the past. This seems to be the case for our club but I am sorry to say that it doesn't seem to apply to other anglers. A rusty hook can cause injury to wildlife or other forms of life which can become wild. It happened to me at the last match and the puncture resulted in a small area of infection. I know that we can all drop small items of tackle and lose them in the mud but with 20 or more metres of line, I don't think so.

Our club has got a good name. It is hard to keep that good name but keep on trying and I am sure that we shall keep pleasing fishery owners.

At the last meeting it was revealed that Mike should soon be out of hospital. I am sure that we all wish him well.

Phil Maude

First Aid for Floats

We all have our favourites whether it is a pole float, a waggler or a stick. We swear by the float and are convinced that it brings us good luck. That conviction probably gives us more confidence and the ability to catch more fish. Then comes the day when the paint peels off, the balsa gets chipped or the antenna is broken off. A very sad day indeed, especially for our confidence. Can the float be restored! Possibly and if it can here are a few tips.

Pole Floats

The antenna gets broken off. Just consider replacing it. Look in your partners broom cupboard and you could find a broom or brush with very stiff bristles either natural or artificial. Take one or two and after removing the stub of the old antenna add the new one.

Chipped paint and exposed balsa can also be repaired. For a long time I have used fly tying varnish for replacing the paint but the range of colours is limited. Red, black and yellow seem to be the only colours available and at £3 99p per bottle a little expensive. I could suggest that you look at nail polish! In some shops you can purchase a bottle reasonably cheaply and look at the range of colours available. I have some "Rimmel" 60 second which does what it says on the bottle and dries in 60 seconds. Bought at "Superdrug" only £1 98 per bottle. Or you could raid your partners make up box but don't get caught. I think that a suitable response could be "I was just checking the colours that you like so that I can buy you some".

Wagglers and Sticks

There are two things that can go wrong with a waggler. The colours fade and the spigot in the end gets lost. A piece of cocktail stick or tooth pick makes a very good spigot. Repainting can be done with either fly varnish or nail polish the choice is up to you. Stick floats lose their colour and those with cane sticks can get broken. The remedy is to repaint with either fly varnish or nail polish. The stick is even easier, a piece of cane from a kebab is which is usually made of bamboo can replace the broken stick.

Remember that all these changes have to be waterproof so a good glue is essential.

Finally I would recommend to you a tip from Davy Matthew. Paint your floats with a nail polish called "Hard as Nails". This helps to prevent the paint on your floats being chipped and peeling off. A little expensive but should prove to be a good investment.