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Thanks

I think that it is incumbent on me to say "Thank You" to all those members who turned out for the AGM. As is usual a good night was had by all. A special thanks must go to Geoff who did the arranging and then ran a good meeting. Looking at special thanks there is one due once again to Davy Matthew who procured prizes and ran his usual successful raffle. Many items were discussed and agreed on, albeit with some talk all these discussions were in the minutes which you should have received and inwardly digested by now. A letter of thanks has been sent to the Two Bridges Hotel for having us.

Comment

B *ecause of the vast improvement in most things I am finding it very difficult to find a subject to comment on. I think that you all deserve a_____*



There is one subject, however, that I think needs commenting on. The subject is club meetings. I have noticed that over the past winter the numbers attending the monthly meeting have steadily declined.

It is realised that work, family, illness and transport difficulties prevent some of you attending but how about the others.

A meeting is a talking shop where you can air your views, ideas or simply just moan about the committee although I would be careful in the case of the Match Secretary. As well as all this chatter a meeting brings together members who may not have met for at least a month. IT IS A GET TOGETHER OF FRIENDS.

After all that I would urge you all to attend as many meetings as possible. They really are quite enjoyable.

I want to thank all members for their best wishes on my 70th birthday.

I am sure that we all wish Mike a speedy return to the bank.

Phil Maude

The Whip

The whip is the earliest and easiest form of fishing. Historically Izaak Walton describes his fishing pole as *“a long piece of withe (willow) to which is added a long length of silk or even braided horsehair. The float should be a stopper from a bottle of Madeira which having been drunk will give welcome warmth on a cold day. Attach a hook and soon a goode basket of fishes will be yours”*.

The whip is even mentioned in fiction in “Huckleberry Finn” by Mark Twain. The friends go fishing with a fishing pole cut from a willow, some line, a bottle cork and some worms for bait.

Although neither of these examples directly describes their poles as a whip that is what they are.

In coarse angling the whip is often quoted as being the method of choice for the beginner because of its simplicity.

When match fishing the use of the whip is often described as “tiddler snatching”

Whips are available in lengths from 3 to 8 metres. They are usually telescopic and use the lightest possible materials.

The rigs are extremely simple. They consist of a pole float, line, weight and hook. The float should be capable of taking a fair amount of weight to aid the casting of the rig. The whip is fished “to hand” which means that the fish are lifted from the water and swung into the anglers hand, “tiddler snatching”. More substantial fish can be netted in the usual way.

The length of the completed rig should be long enough to swing the fish to hand but should also take into account the weight of rig and fish which will put a bend in the top section.

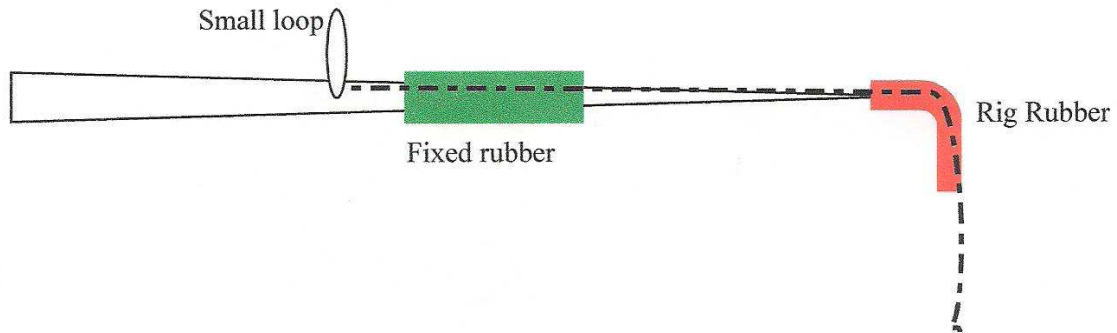
There are three recognised ways in which the rigs are attached to the whip.

Firstly there is the flick tip. This is simply a ring or a hook at the tip of the whip to which the rig is attached.

Secondly there is a variation of the flick tip which incorporates two rubbers that fit over the tip of the top section. The ring needs removing, sometimes it will move with a steady pull from a pair of pliers, but usually it has to be cut away.

Slip the first rubber over the tip of the whip and lock in place about 2 inches down the tip with super glue or rig glue. The second rubber is slipped over the end of the rig. The rig should have two loops tied in it, one large and one small which attaches the rig to the whip. In use the main line is looped through the main loop and slid over the fixed rubber. The second rubber is placed on the tip of the whip so that the rig hangs from the tip and not down the top section.

The small loop, I forgot to mention that it is used to free the rig from the whip at the end of the session. Pull on it and the loop will ease so that the rig can be removed from the whip.



The third method is to elasticate the whip and use a stonfo connector. Personally I have elasticated my whip with No.12 latex. Many will now say that that is far too strong. My thinking is that I can hold a large fish easily and if the fish are small then the rig works in the same manner as a flick tip.

Casting with a whip is easy. Flick the rig out to where you want to fish. Or if the wind is against you use the whip to whip out the rig. The whip can also be used in the same way as your poles top 3 or 4 sections and the rig lowered into the water.

The method of connection and casting is up to you. I urge you to try this simple method and give the pole a rest.