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**Once Upon a Time in the North West
(of England)**

At a time not long ago, in a place not faraway there lived an angler called Ivan. He fished at a place called "Fleet Dam" for a team called the "Barnsley Blacks". Ivan found that the fish had become so used to fishermen that they had moved just out of the reach of anglers. Ivan pondered the problem, how was he to get his ground bait further than he could throw it and at the same time avoid the affliction known as "catty hand?"

One night he spied on the dressing table of his wife, hair curlers with holes for spikes to go through. He "borrowed" one of each size. He placed a weight at one end and a swivel at the other. On his next visit to the water he tried these hair curlers by filling them with maggot, and they worked! The feeder had been born.

However his curiosity again got the better of him, spying curlers with bristles on the outside. He added a weight to the bottom and a swivel to the top and discovered that he could place ground bait in the bristles and cast to the fish. Thus was the method feeder born.

All of this is true or so said the late, great, Ivan Marks.

This is just a foretaste of Geoff's idea for this month's main article, FEEDERS.

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Comments

There is very little to comment on this month. The end of the summer league saw the usual suspects winning, again. The last meeting, not well attended, saw the start of the winter league with the first match on the 25th October at Orchill.

I used to be able to write reams about foul language and litter. I am glad to say that I now have very little to comment on.

All I can ask is that we all keep up the good work that has been so difficult to achieve.

As usual I will ask you to let me have some ideas for articles, as long as you give me the time for research.

Also I will once again comment on attendance, or lack of, at meetings. I can only repeat myself by saying that there is no chance of getting a problem aired if you are either not at a meeting or have not asked some other member to speak for you. Please try to attend if at all possible.

A copy of this newsletter and the minutes of all meetings are sent to Jack for inclusion on the forum. Hard copies of all newsletters will be available at meetings or in the final extreme at the AGM in March.

Phil Maude

Feeders

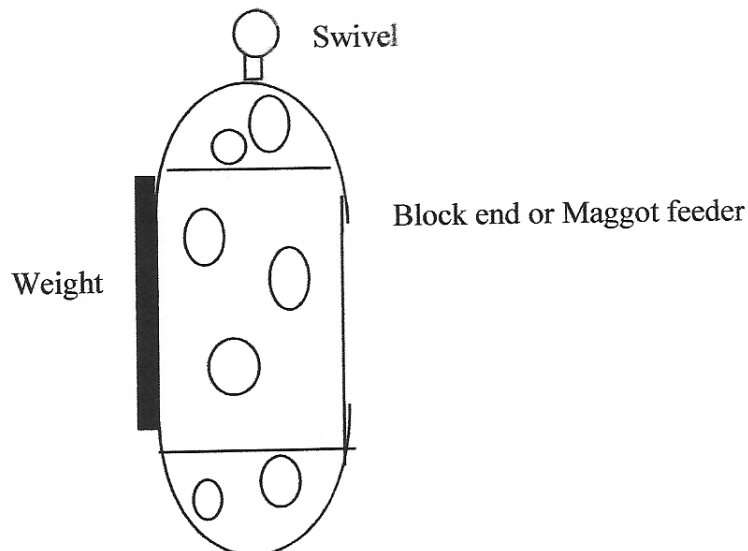
This is a large and yet relatively easy subject to discuss. Over the months I think that I have covered feeder fishing but as I have been reminded I have never discussed feeders.

There are a large variety of feeders on the market, block end or maggot feeders, open, cage, method, method flat, method shaped, “in line” and paternoster or bolt. In fact it is all quite bewildering. I will do my best to go through the intricacies of all of them.

Block End or Maggot

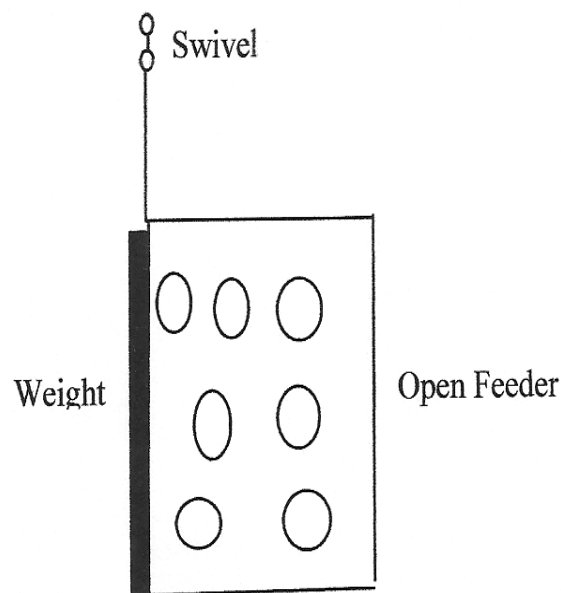
This is a very simple feeder it consists of a plastic tube with a cap at both ends. There is a weight on the side or at the bottom. There is a swivel at the top. The sides of the feeder are pierced in various places to allow the maggots to float out.

Although called a maggot feeder any bait can be used, as long as it can escape from the feeder. The holes can be made bigger to let out bigger baits or allow the bait to escape quicker. A trick used by many match anglers is to use a piece of pole elastic tied to the bottom of the feeder and also to the swivel at the top. When filling the feeder just stretch the elastic, put in the bait and let the top snap shut again. The maggot feeder is the one to use in running water but can be used anywhere.



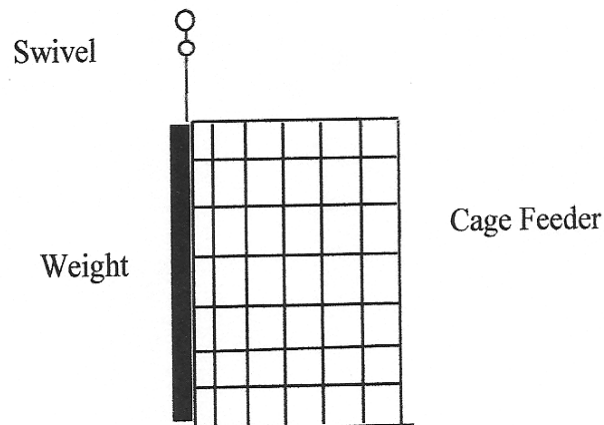
Open Feeder

This is the simplest of all feeders. A plastic tube with holes in it. A weight on one side and some form of harness with either a swivel or a loop on it. The weight is interchangeable allowing for more or less weight to be used. The feeder can be totally filled with a ground bait mixture or any other inert bait. For use with maggot or worm plug one end with ground bait, add the bait and then plug the other end with more ground bait.



Cage Feeder

The cage feeder comes in three forms and two materials. The mesh can be made from metal or plastic. The shape can be cuboid or round. It is used in much the same way as the open feeder but allows for a faster release of the bait inside it. The cage feeder is very much a summer feeder due to its quick release. The third form of cage feeder is the “grip mesh feeder”. This feeder has small spikes inside it and can be used to hold much softer ground bait or bait, for example mushy bread which would simply fall out of any other feeder when casting.



Finally there are the specialist feeders. The ones found in match fishing are the method feeders. They are usually fished as bolt rigs for big carp but can be fished “in-line” to comply with fishery rules.

Whether flat or any other shape the method feeder is designed to have the ground bait moulded to the outside of the cage. The ground bait which is made very stiff so that it will not fly off when the angler is casting to the far horizons can be either a specialist method feeder mix or a mix which you as the angler prefer to use. When using a method feeder the hook length is very short and the bait placed on or in the ground bait.

Recent advances have shown that flat feeders are the best because they stay in place when cast. Unlike a round feeder they will not roll down the shelf. Moulds have also been introduced for the flat feeder so that a perfectly streamlined and same weight bait is produced every time.

With the exception of the method feeders all other feeders have detachable and changeable weight to allow for the distance to be cast and speed of the water, especially when fishing rivers.

All feeders can be modified to fish “in line”. Some fisheries insist on this modification. This is for the safety of the fish. An “in-line” feeder will slip off the line in the event of breakage, preventing a fish being tethered to the bottom or snag.

Whether fishing paternoster or “in-line” it is recommended that a hook length of lower breaking strain than the main line should be used.