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Listening

In our sport there is one thing which very few of us like to do and which is very important if we want to become better anglers and increase our chances of catching our quarry.

We have to become listeners! Other anglers, knowing the venue better than us, will pass on information if we ask. We then must proceed to act on the information received. Sounds like a police report!!

The question we must ask ourselves is: Do we listen?

The norm for a bog standard club angler is to get to the water, set up, answer a call of nature, chat or have breakfast. If another angler offers some advice do we listen? I would venture to say very rarely. After all who wants to start changing their tackle or rigs with only a few minutes to go before the "all in".

We could, like some professionals, ball in some ground bait and whilst it is settling change things. Do we? I doubt it very much because we have lost the art of LISTENING.

In this issue: Is this the future ?

Comments Page

This is the page where I would like to add your comments about the newsletter, the club, venues, in fact anything that is not personal so that others can read your personal views and ideas. I know that some of you say that all this stuff is on the forum but some people don't have a computer or e-mail. Other people are too busy to go into the forum. So how do these people know what others are thinking? Contact me on the phone, by e-mail or letter with your comments if you want them included in the newsletter.

The last match was a disappointment to most of us and the comment at the meeting was that "we never as a club do well at Broom". Whether this is down to us as anglers or our approach to the venue is not clear. No doubt one of you out there will come up with an answer.

Geoff, Harry and I had a trip to Hammerlands to check out the venue. The owner has cleared most of the weed but there are still some rafts of dying weed floating about. There seems to be a reasonable head of small silver fish and some very big ide. Geoff had 8, Harry 2 and I had one. All seemed to come over a bed of ground bait with red maggot proving to be the best bait. We felt that the venue is not yet ready for matches but is a very good venue for pleasure fishing.

I would like to thank you all for trying to keep down the foul language, although it is difficult at times, and picking up as much litter as possible irrespective of it being yours or other less tidy anglers.

Phil Maude

Phil Maude

Is this the Future?

On a recent trip to the south I was introduced to some novel and interesting ways of fishing commercial lakes and overgrown club waters.

I will ask you some questions. How often have you been tangled in bank side vegetation when using your normal 13 foot float rod or 12 foot feeder? For me all too frequently.

How often have you cast into the grass at Magiscroft ? A short rod allows you to take a more delicate approach especially on island and snake lakes.

The answer that southern anglers have come up with is the shorter rod. Modern materials mean that a rod of between 8 and 10 feet has the fish stopping power of a conventional match rod.

Casting is a lot easier because it is possible to fish swims which are overgrown without the resulting tangles.

Some of you will be starting to think of distance casting. I have found that it is possible to cast a 15 gm. weight up to 40 metres without a loss of accuracy. Is that far enough? Most commercials have an island or the far bank at approximately 16 metres. Why do you need to cast further?

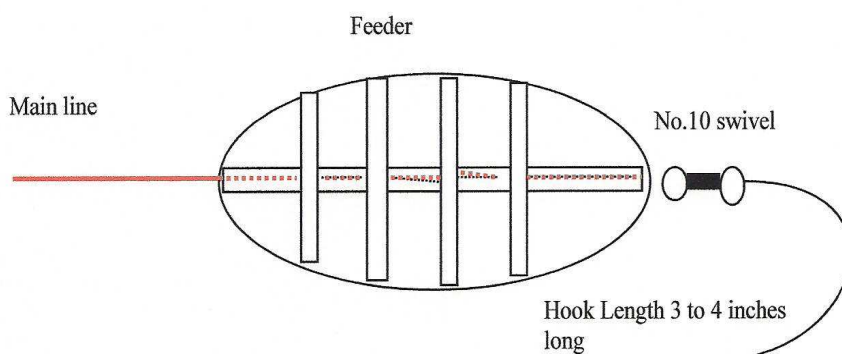
So what are the gains? Fewer hang ups in bank side trees. A considerably lighter rod which means less aches at the end of a session. Less weight to carry around at the beginning or end of a session. Ease of placing in rests, especially when using a leger rod.

My conclusion was and is that the shorter rod works well unless you are fishing for carp and 70 or 80yds. In this case traditional carp tackle is required.

River fishing whether commercial or not still requires the use of long rods to control floats and legers over a longer distance.

Another facet of the southern scene is the use of the flat feeder coupled with a bait mould. These feeders can be filled with ground bait or feeder pellet.

The advantage is that they will not roll down the shelf opposite. The rig is simple. Using an in-line feeder: Thread the main line through the feeder and attach to a No 10 swivel. Attach a 3 to 4 inch hook length. That completes the rig. If the swivel is pushed hard into the end of the feeder it becomes a bolt rig. If a bead is placed on the line before tying on the feeder it is a running rig. **Remember** fishery rules on bolt rigs.



Is this the future of fishing commercials? Personally I think that it might be. What do you think?

I spoke of the requirement for a float on some waters up here and this is the rig which was suggested and is acceptable on all southern commercials. A feeder float rig.

The feeder can be supported up-right by the float or allowed to fall over

An alternative to the water knot is a swivel held in place with a "Fox" braid stop top and bottom

