

WILL RAISSON'S A WORLD CHAMPION'S ANGLE

interactive MONTHLY e magazine



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Series 1 No. 39 April 2012

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WILLRAISON'S A WORLD CHAMPION'S ANGLE MONTHLY

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Welcome April 2012

The unseasonal weather continues with late March bringing more summer like temperatures and this has improved fishing with a lot of fisheries waking up early from the winter slumber.

This month I have a few important events and so I have been practicing a fair bit and that is a key aspect of this issue's In Session feature.

You join me on the deep Gloucester canal where I practice for a match featuring 20 of the UK's top match anglers.

Not only is it a piece on how I practice but also a workout on how to tackle deep (15 ft.) water for bream on the pole.

It's not the sort of venue many of you will face regularly but when you do it's nice to have a good idea how to go about tackling it.

So read on and enjoy.

Will Raison



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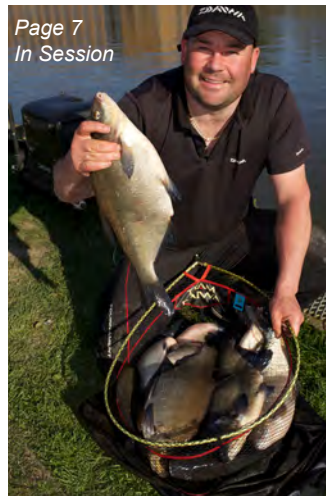
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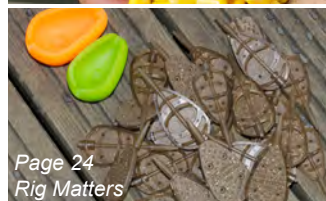
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Interactive

this E-magazine is interactive with video clips and live links. * internet connection required.

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THE NEW TD FLOAT'ILLA

Cover commercial needs

The new Team Daiwa pole

with the new range of pole floats from Daiwa

floats are definitely a step in the right direction with patterns to cover most modern commercial pole fishing eventualities.

There are eight patterns in the baits like paste, meat,

new range covering slim pencil types perfect for F1 or delicate soft pellet work through to more bulbous robust patterns for big carp bagging with corn and hard pellets.

My particular pattern for a lot of maggots but it will also

favourite is the No 3, which is a slim oval body shape with a slim hollow bristle and comes in a range of sizes from 4x10 to 4x16. I use this my commercial long pole work now. It is very good for skimmers and bream in depths up to 6-8 ft. with baits like soft pellets or dead red stand up to carp sessions.

This shape is a pencil float more

very versatile pattern and offers less resistance than wider bodied floats and is a great all rounder. Not as straight in shape as the and not as buoyant as a big rounder bodied pattern. If the conditions mean you need a more stable float then the No.5 is a slightly substantial version of the same float shape.

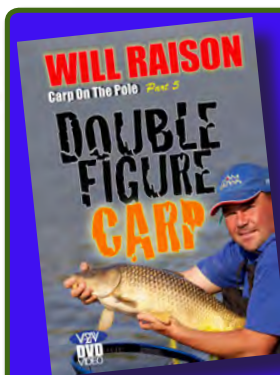
For paste sliding to break.

work give the No.8 a go as it has a very long bristle but the body can be slid off the stem in order to pass the line through before it back on the stem thus trapping the line. This is great when bagging as: i) The float won't move and ii) there are no side eyes

Nos 1 & 2 are the slim pencil types that will be good on the F1 venues the main difference in this patterns being that one has a carbon stem and thicker 1.5 mm bristle while the other has a wire stem and thinner 1 mm bristle.

Nos 4 and 6 offer more substantial bristles and bodies, good for supporting larger hook baits like meat corn and larger pellets, while No 7 is a diamond shaped body that is perhaps one of the most stable all round float choices for maggot and soft pellet work. All in all a good well made range of pole floats. **WR**

The eight new patterns in the Daiwa Pole Float range



YOU WILL NEED STRONG FLOATS FOR THIS CAPER!

If you don't have a copy of Will's Double Figure Carp On The Pole DVD you can order it from the V2VAP online DVD shop following the link below

www.v2vangling.co.uk



Product Details

Team Daiwa Pole Floats

Eight floats featuring hollow bristles, some with carbon and others wire stems.

Sizes from 4x10 and 0.2 gr. to 4x18 and 0.6 gr. depending on the model.

RRP is £1.50 per float.

More details from:
www.daiwasports.co.uk
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FEEDING THE EDGE DWELLERS

WITH the early warm temperatures margin action is more likely to occur this month so I thought I'd take a look at what I think about baits and feeding for these often-productive areas of swims. Of course I'm including both near bank margins and the margins of reachable far banks and islands.

FEED BAITS

Baits like corn, meat, hemp, casters and also groundbait can all play their part in margin feeding situations. I'm wary of feeding pellets unless I'm targeting fish up in the water because pellets break down too easily and can cause big problems with foul hooking fish when trying to catch on the bottom.

Whether to choose groundbait or loose particles is often venue dependant, if the venue has a groundbait ban then your mind is made up for you! If not you need to know if the fish will respond better to one or the other.

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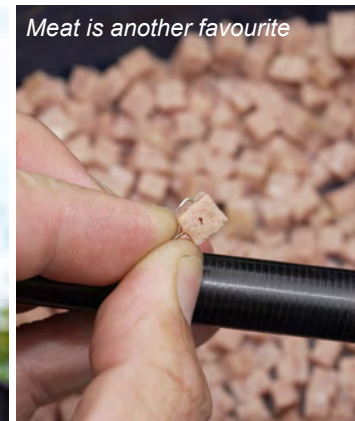
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MY FAVOURITE HOOK BAITS

Again a wide variety will work and I like corn as a good margin hook bait but meat can also be deadly and dendrobaena worm is also very effective. These are good baits at full depth but hard banded pellet is good when pinging pellets to the far margin on a canal lake or island where you can catch shallow up in the water on a long pole. The key thing when selecting hook baits is that (with the exception of groundbait) whatever I am feeding is what I want to have on the hook.



Worms are very good on the hook



Meat is another favourite



Corn is good for feed and as hook bait. Double corn is great for big fish or when silver fish are a problem.



Hemp and caster is an excellent margin feed

WAYS OF FEEDING

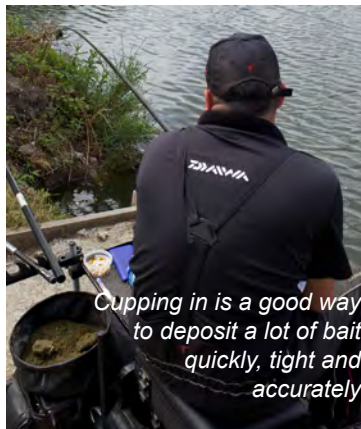
An article I did last summer where I fed groundbait in the margins proved just what a deadly way of feeding that can be and it is a method that has become more and more popular. You can cup several balls of groundbait with perhaps some loose corn in a tight accurate marginal spot and top it up as required with smaller balls and qualities of corn.

Or you could cup in a decent amount of loose particles like hemp and corn, meat and corn or a mix and sit and wait for fish to arrive.

Using a small dedicated Kinder egg style cup and dripping feed in tight and accurate can be the way to go when the fish is not so good and you want to feed for one fish at a time.



More Bait Tips In Next Month's E-magazine



Throwing by hand is also good particularly so because you can easily feed short range margin swim in this way while concentrating your efforts on fishing another method at the same time.

Using a catapult is generally the preserve for the far bank or island margins when feeding baits like pellets, or casters very frequently in an attempt to catch fish shallow. **WR**



THE SQUARE - This Month The www.v2vangling.co.uk Will Raison DVD Shop

If you are new to Will Raison's DVDs or you want to complete your collection you can click straight through to our web shop where you can buy securely online. Just click on the relevant DVD cover below and this will launch in a new browser window so you don't have to leave the E-mag either! All titles are £9.99 each in our winter sale with discounts* for multiple DVD purchases applied automatically when you add extra DVDs to your basket.

*Excludes the Method Feeder DVD

Carp On The Pole Series



- 1 - Long Pole Shallow
- 2 - Long Pole Deep
- 3 - Island margins
- 4 - Pole & Paste
- 5 - Double Figure Carp

Carp On The Rod Series



- 1 - Feeder & Bomb
- 2 - Pellet Waggler
- 3 - Big Waggler
- 4 - Method Feeder

Silvers On The Pole Series



- 1 - Bloodworm & Joker
- 2 - Casters Worms & Groundbait
- 3 - Bread Punch
- 4 - Bream & Skimmers On Pellets

Silvers On The Rod Series



- 1 - Bream & Skimmers On The Tip

Just one click on a cover and you are there!

Team Daiwa Seat Box 150

ARE YOU SITTING COMFORTABLY?

Team Daiwa 150SB

MANY people might be surprised why I use the smaller Team Daiwa 150SB seat box as opposed to the larger Daiwa boxes but I have a separate stacking system with all my rigs in and I found that I was carrying a great big box system around with hardly anything in so I downsized to the 150.

This 150SB is in its standard form the perfect height for me and when I sit on it my knees are at the right height meaning I don't have to alter the height of the adjustable legs. The box features six telescopic adjustable round legs fitted with mud feet and there is a sliding footplate. The whole set-up is very stable indeed, in fact the 150 is as stable as its larger siblings. The adjustable legs will easily cope with undulating ground to make sure you can set your box flat and level and the locking knobs work very well indeed.

One thing to note - I have cut down the front legs because tall front legs can get in the way especially on commercials where you are netting lots of fish.

The 150SB has a pair of front drawers that are ideal for holding those items I need quick access to during a match things like disgorgers, plummets, market pens and the like, spare shot. The pair of side drawers and integrated winder trays offer enough space to carry the rigs you need for immediate use plus several spares - if you stick to one or two venues then you probably would not need a separate stacking system.

In the 14 cm deep base you can store larger items perhaps a storage case with some feeders in it or spare tells, spools etc.



Product Details

Team Daiwa Seatbox 150SB

14 cm deep base
Two front and two side drawers
Winder trays
Soft rubber handwheels and non-marking locking system
Sliding footplate
Padded strap
Padded seat with pole holderRRP £315.00
www.daiwasports.co.uk



The padded seat is comfortable for the full duration of a fishing session and has an integral pole butt rest. The box comes with a padded carrying strap.

I've had my box in constant use now for 8 months or so fishing several times each week and so it takes some hammer but it hasn't let me down and I have no hesitation in recommending it or the larger 400. **WR.**

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MAIN FEATURE

^{1st} Session

DEPTH CHARGER

Don't be fazed by deep water when fishing a long pole. In this month's **In Session** feature **Will Raison** takes us to the **Gloucester Canal** and shows how he tackles 15 ft. of water while practicing for a big match. **Brian Gay** takes the pictures and shoots the video.



EVERY now and then many of you will find yourself in a situation where you are faced with fishing the long pole in deep water, depths of 10-20 ft. and it can be tricky but it doesn't have to be. I have a big match coming up on the Gloucester Canal in mid April, a Sport England Angling Trust match for the top 20 match anglers in the UK and I want to do well in it so I have brought the cameras to Hempstead for a practice session.

The Gloucester Canal is by UK standards a deep and wide canal venue more akin to some found on the continent with depths of 10-18 feet in many areas.

I have not fished the venue for some years now and although I have done well there in the past in National Championships I wanted to reacquaint myself with the place ahead of this big event. With some good matches on the venue in the weeks before my visit I spoke to some anglers who fished including Jean Desque and Ian Didcote and gleaned some advance information that indicated bream would play a part.

This is a key point when practicing for any event on an unfamiliar venue, use your contacts who know the water to give you a basis on which to plan an attack.

The Sport England event will be fished to CIPS rules so bloodworm and joker will be important and pole fishing will be key with the 13-metre limit enforced.

So before I set off to the canal I made sure I had suitable rigs for this depth of water. As well as bream the other species to look out for are roach, sometimes big quality redfins, skimmers, hybrids, bleak and possibly eels. In fact the venue used to be an excellent eel fishery with matches won with double figure hauls of eels, but the decline of the eel in recent years means it is now less so.

THE PEG

I sat at a peg more or less opposite the cement works and just before the new diversion where they cut a channel through from the old canal to divert it and build a new road bridge. These alterations meant that the old Hempstead Bend and its flyer swims were replaced with this new cut through. It looks like they have done a superb job and it has settled down nicely.

TACTICS

I decided to base this practice around two approaches - the long pole at full depth looking for the bream, quality skimmers, hybrids and roach while the whip long lined with 5 metres of line would help me explore the bleak prospects.

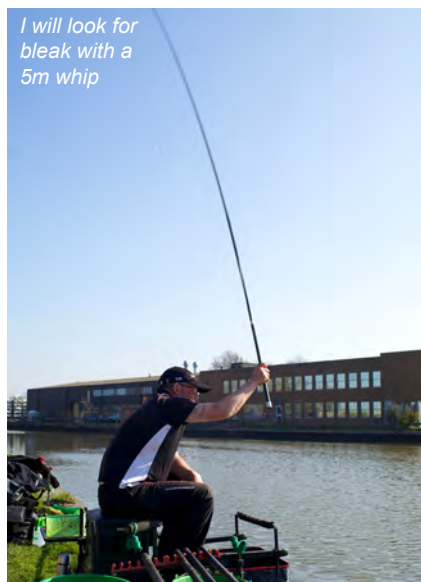
On difficult pegs bleak could play a part if they are there in sufficient numbers and because the long pole line will need to be left while the feed settles it is good to have a method to use while that is happening.

Because this is a practice session it is not about filling my net with fish, if I am going to make mistakes I'd rather make them today than in the match so it is more about finding out which of the things I intend to do are more or less effective than others. I will experiment with the feeding and look to see if there is something there that gives me an edge. With the whip I will be looking to see how many bleak there are, what the stamp is and what depth they are feeding at, these things will help me gauge if they are a credible route to a weight of fish or not. Bleak are the sort of fish that you will either catch one a bung or hardly any, there's no in-between and although they are small fish, if they come one a bung you can soon put several pounds of them together.

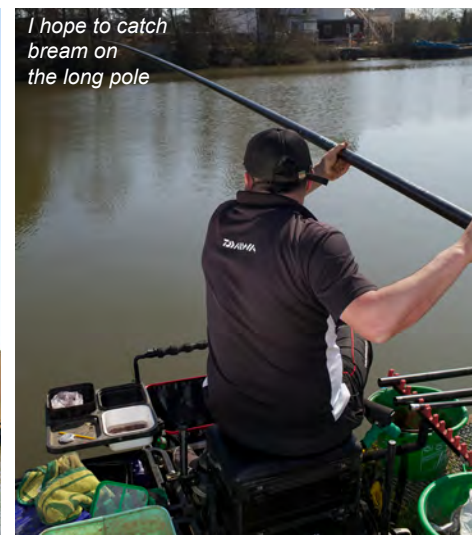
TACKLE

So let's look at the tackle I am employing today. Long pole wise to ensure that my pole is within the 13 metre maximum length limit I am using a dolly butt section in the butt end of the Daiwa Tournament Airity pole. I have measured this and this is exactly right. I have set up two top kits for this pole, both identical the second being there in case of a problem with the first one. Now top kits on deep water canals are a sore point if you are used to shallow commercials or shallow canals because in the depths that the Gloucester has to offer you will need top sixes to accommodate the rigs.

I will look for bleak with a 5m whip



I hope to catch bream on the long pole



Bleak could play a part



The dolly butt is vital



The top kits are elasticated with a grade 5 through the top three's which is needed to set the hook in the depth and handle the stamp of fish I am expecting from that area of the swim. The rig line is 0.14 mm diameter and this may seem thick but in deep water you need a wiry line because thin lines do tend to tangle too easily with deep rigs, they can easily spin up. The hook length lines are 20 cm of 0.08 mm diameter which should be strong enough to land any bigger bream that come my way but fine enough to get plenty of bites from smaller fish if that is what is in the swim.

The hook choice is the size 18 Sensas Black Nickel, one of my favourites when bloodworm fishing for quality fish. If the fish were expected to be very small then I'd use a Gama Green but here the fish tend to be of a good size so the Black Nickel it is. I'm starting on a size 18 because I intend to present four bloodworms and this is a good size to do just that. I have a hook box with me, stored in which are numerous spare hook length featuring hooks in the patterns mentioned from sizes 14 to 0.12 mm diameter line, down to size 20's to 0.08 mm diameter line to give me options. For example if I am getting liners but no bites then I might try a smaller hook. If the fishing is particularly good I might feel like trying a bigger hook.



Now the float choice for this deep water long pole rig is a key piece of the plan because I have a little black book where I write down things that happen in matches or practices and I looked up some of my past trips to the Gloucester canal and one thing that I concluded back then was that the bream here will give more bites on a lighter weighted rig than a heavier one.

In this depth of water you could be expecting to use a 2-3 gram float or even bigger but in my experiences floats of just over a gram were more effective so today I have opted for the Carpa Gent pattern in size 1.5 gr.

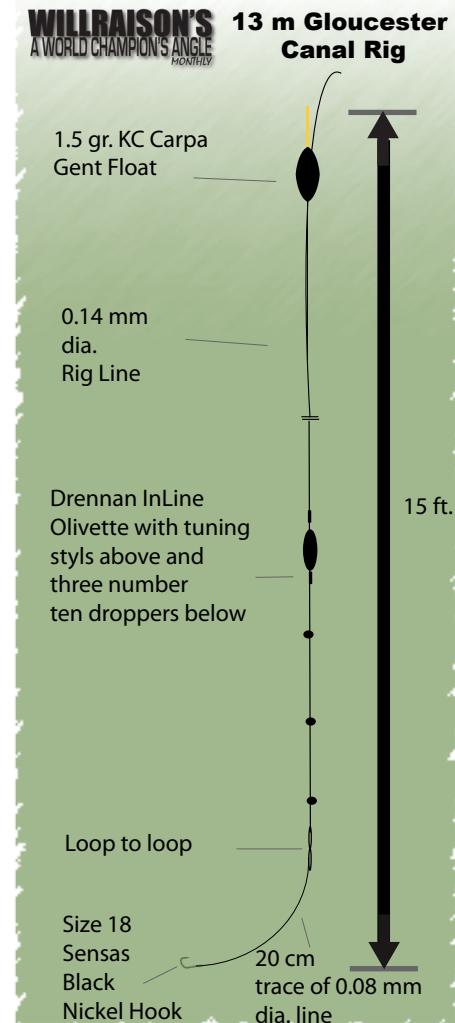
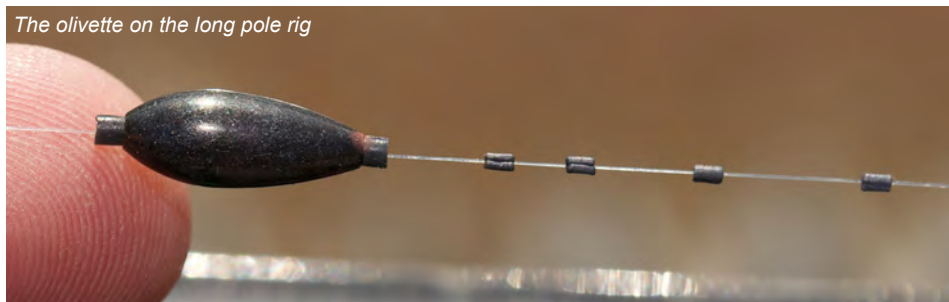
This float has a nice long, thin hollow bristle, which is ideal to read the bream bites but fine enough for roach. It also has a wire stem which helps with stability in the deep water.



The shotting pattern is basically a Drennan Inline olivette with a few tuning styles above and 3 no. 10 droppers.

The whole rig is plumbed up to allow the hook bait to just rest on the bottom. In the past the Gloucester Canal was notorious for it's uneven bed and finding a flat area on which to feed was a nightmare in some swims but this swim is as flat as a table so that means I can plan to feed an area straight in front of me for maximum control. The plumbing reveals 15 ft of water at 13 metres.

The whip is a 5m Powermesh whip with a solid flick tip and the rig line is attached by looping it over the tip and securing in place with a piece of silicone rubber and tried and trusted way of connecting rigs to whips. The rig line is 0.12 mm diameter and the hook length 0.08 mm diameter. The float is a straight slim profile 4x14 Milo pattern with a host thin bristle and is shotted with a bulk of number 9's and a single dropper. This pattern is similar to that used for bread punch rigs because the whip is really an all or nothing method it is best when the fish are feeding in numbers and quickly so you need a positive pattern. The hook for this rig is a Drennan Long Shank Match size 18.

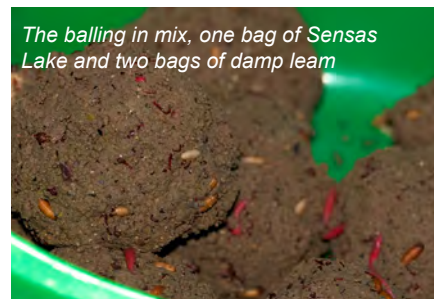


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BAIT

I have three mixes on the go today. Two for the long pole deep swim, one for the bleak swim. Firstly for the basis of the long pole swim I have prepared a balling in groundbait and leam mix comprising one bag of Sensas Lake 3000 and two of damp leam. Sensas Lake is a groundbait that I have a lot of faith in when tackling waters of this nature or any water that I don't really know that well and combined with leam it is a combination I have used many times all over Europe and have utmost confidence in. Now when it comes to combining these two some people prefer to mix the groundbait with water and then riddle in the leam. I don't, I like to add them together dry, thoroughly mix them together so the leam is evenly distributed through the Sensas Lake before adding any water.

I have used a cordless drill to prepare the mix today for speed to allow me more time to set up the rest of my gear. To mix with the drill add a quantity of water to the dry mix and then use the drill with a groundbait whisk attached to mix the water through the groundbait. Then test the consistency. For deep water the mix has to be quite hard and sticky enough so that it can hold joker, casters, or chopped worms and be



The balling in mix, one bag of Sensas Lake and two bags of damp leam

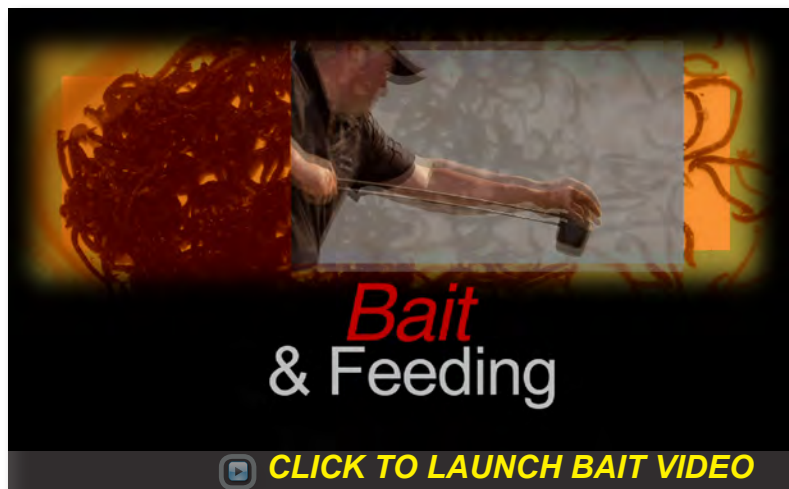


The cupping in mix, One bag of damp leam and half a bag of grey leam



thrown to 13 metres and sink to the bottom without breaking up. Once on the bottom this mix will start to break down over the early part of the session. So the groundbait is initially mixed slightly on the wet side adding the water until I can achieve this type of mix, a lighter, fluffier groundbait mix would just break up too quickly and easily.

The second mix for the long pole is a double leam combination which is essentially half a bag of grey leam and a full bag of damp leam again mixed together while dry. Then the secret is to add water using an atomiser whilst drilling the mix. The time you know when you have got this mix right is when it starts to congeal into little lumps, at this point stop mixing. This gives you the sticky effect, you can add jokers to it, casters, whatever you like to it and it will go straight to the bottom and break up immediately. This is the part of the feed that I hope the bream will settle over today and again my research suggests that the bream in this canal also respond to topping up with small balls of this double leam mix. So I will be paying close attention to that during this practice session.



The whip mix - red Tracix plus Explosive Lake



As far as the bleak mix is concerned it is Sensas Explosive Lake with red Tracix colouring and it is mixed sloppy so that it breaks on the surface, nice and wet and will form a cloud to encourage any bleak in the area into my swim. I choose red Tracix just because I have great confidence in the colour when bleak fishing. This mix is fed regularly maybe twice a minute just a small nugget and it is amazing how well that will cloud up.

Bleak are fickle fish but if they are about you will see them pinging and if that happens today while I am fish in the long pole, because it is a practice session I may well put the long pole down and have a go for the bleak to gauge the size particularly how many to the pound, and if they re worth fishing for.

See how well it clouds

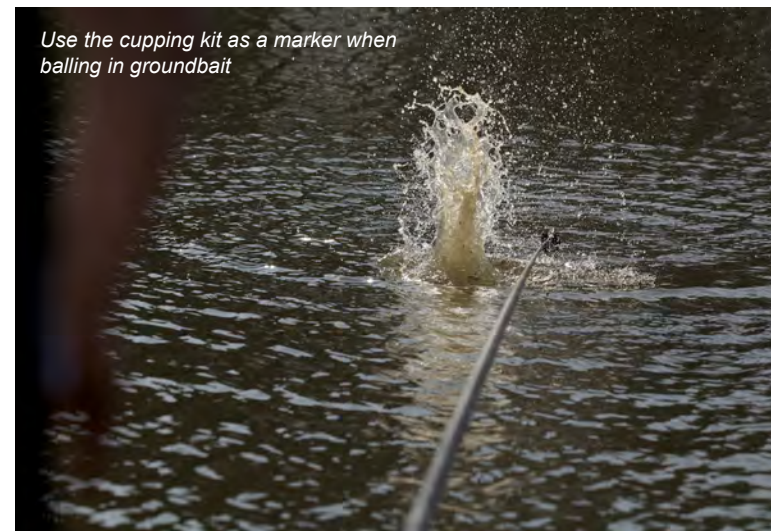


INITIAL FEEDING

So the initial feeding plan is this: about ten balls of the groundbait and damp leam mix, laced with some jokers, casters and dead red maggots is thrown in by hand to the long pole swim. To do this I will put the cupping kit on the pole so the cup will act as my marker, place the pole in the pole rests attached to the side of my seat box system paying attention to position it so that it replicates the same distance it will be in when I fish with the baited rig. Throw the balls so that they land in an area certainly no further than the pole cup target and up to a metre back. These do not need to go right down the same 'hole' each time as I am trying to create an area with these balls for fish to react to and come looking for food.

After the groundbait / leam mix has been balled in I bring the pole back in and use the cupping kit to introduce a similar number of balls of the double leam mix which contains some joker and a small amount of chopped dendrobaena worms (do not try to add too many worms as they can cause the mix to become less sticky).

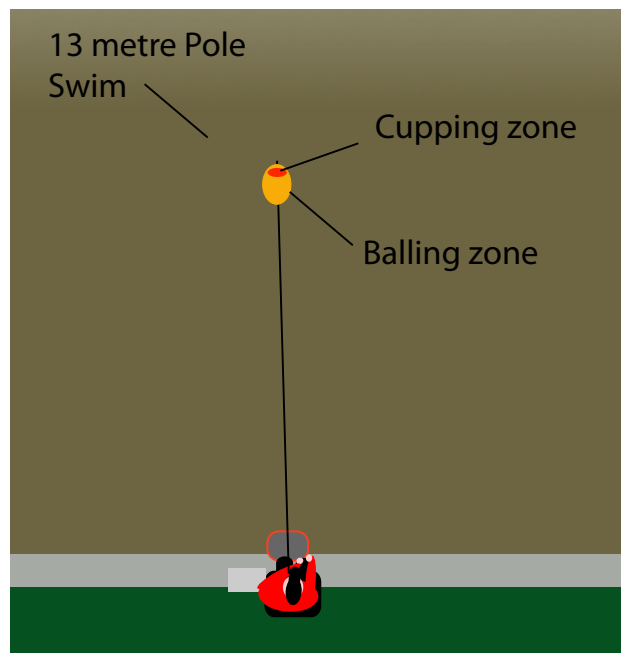
Use the cupping kit as a marker when balling in groundbait



These balls are cupped in over a tighter area to form a hot spot of feed, as this is where I want the bream, having responded to the wider spread of groundbait to find the main food source.

I do not expect the bream to show up for an hour so now is the time to leave the bait to settle and do it's job while I start on the whip and look to see if there are any bleak about.

One thing I noted immediately while feeding the long pole line I did not see any bleak pinging on the surface, which they will often do when bait enters the water as small fragments will break off. So that is not a good sign as far as the bleak prospects go.



START

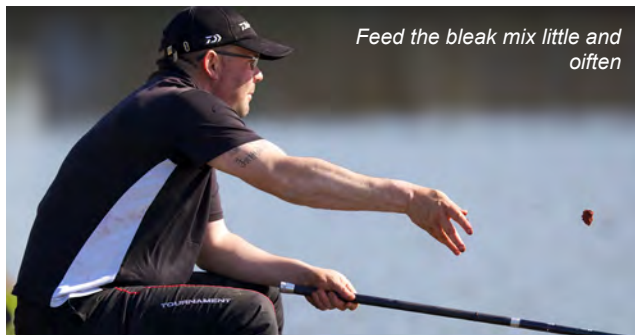
So I have the bleak rig set about 12-18 inches deep and I can vary this to see what depth the bleak respond best at, that is if there are any bleak here, but if you are going to do any good with bleak it will be very near the surface.

One other factor that does not bode too well today when it comes to catching a weight of bleak is that it is a very sunny, warm day and they do not like bright conditions as much as overcast ones. You might think that this also means it is not good bream weather but believe me in this depth of water I do not think that matters.

Hook bait is bloodworm and I feed a nugget of the red sloppy groundbait flicked by hand and then overhead flick the rig over the top and into the cloud. It doesn't take long to get a bite and hook a fish that is quickly swung to hand. It is a small fish but it's not a bleak, it is a roach.



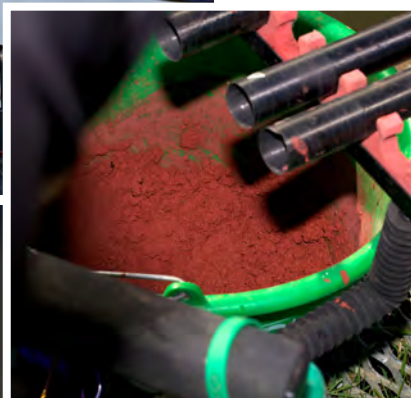
One of the balls cupped in on the long line



Feed the bleak mix little and often

Another nugget of feed is flicked into the swim, the red cloud forming nicely, another bloodworm baited hook is flicked into the swim and again another bite meets with a small silver but once again it is a small roach.

In fact the next twenty minutes sees a bite most casts but all of the fish are small roach. Not what I expected but interesting and welcome nonetheless because it is always good to be putting some weight in the net while waiting for the long pole line to work.



Eventually I do catch a small bleak but it proves to be the one and only sample of that species during this opening exchange. I catch a few more small roach and also a couple of small rudd too!

You must keep an eye on the time that has passed since that initial feed went in, and with an

hour fast approaching I put the whip down and pick up a long pole rig because I want to see if any bream or even quality roach have arrived over the feed.

I will stop feeding the slop on the whip line for a while to see if the drifting cloud will actually pull any bleak, the cloud will be visible for a distance and so I would see any pinging bleak as it drifts with the wind and tow through other swims.



A small roach

WILLRAISON'S Gloucester Canal Bleak Rig

4x16 Milo Float

0.12 mm dia. Rig Line

18 in.

Bulk of number 9 shot with one dropper below

Loop to loop

Size 18 Drennan Long Shank Match Hook

20 cm trace of 0.08 mm dia. line



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HOOKING BLOODWORMS



In the meantime I bait the long pole rig with four bloodworms through the segment just below the head.

Take your time when hooking them as you must avoid damaging and bursting the bait. You will note that I have one of the white Sensas bait boxes on my side tray and in it is a quantity of bloodworm in water, they are very easy to spot against the white plastic and to select hookers.

I simply take a pinch - no need to squeeze and damage them as the water alone will stick them to your finger.

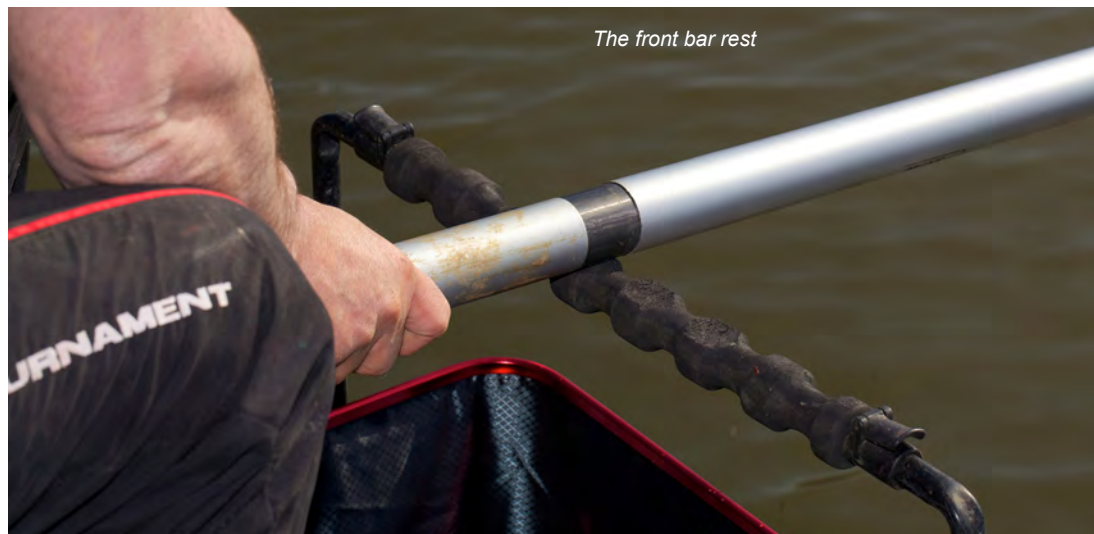
Then just identify a nice one and ease the hook point into the bait and move out down to the bend of the hook. Then repeat with three more. Four bloodworms is an excellent starting hook bait when targeting quality fish.



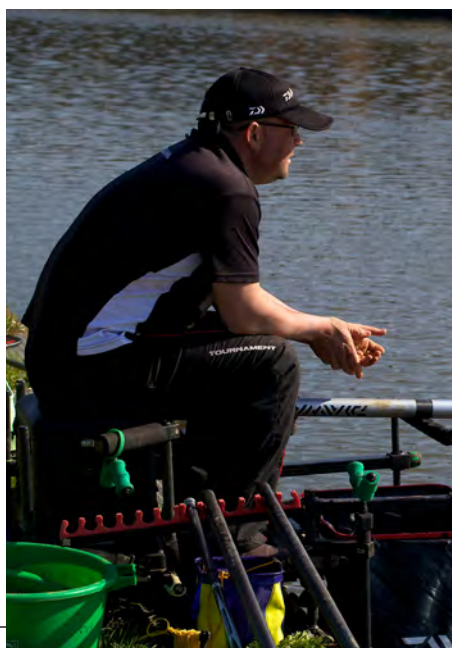
FRONT REST

The rig is shipped out and lowered into the swim so the bulk will settle over the cupped in area of feed, and at this point I will place the butt into the pole rest recess on my seat box and rest it on a front bar rest. Now the front bar rest is very important when fishing for a few big fish because you want to achieve a still presentation right over the feed. It is in fact very much like the presentation you would achieve with a feeder.

The front bar allows you to hold the rig dead still whereas holding the pole in your hands can inadvertently vary where the rig is. With a front rest the pole is locked still and waiting for a fish with perfect presentation.



With the rig in the swim I am looking to see any signs of fish, primarily any bubbles. You won't necessarily see a lot of bubbles in this depth but occasional bubbles breaking surface if feeding fish are about.



My initial look over the long pole line will be for about ten minutes. If I do not catch in that time, or see any signs, then I will go back on the whip for about half an hour before having a second look over the long pole line. If I do not catch then, I would consider topping the long pole line up and going back onto the whip for another half an hour. It's a case of trial and error looking to find a few things out that will help formulate my match plan.

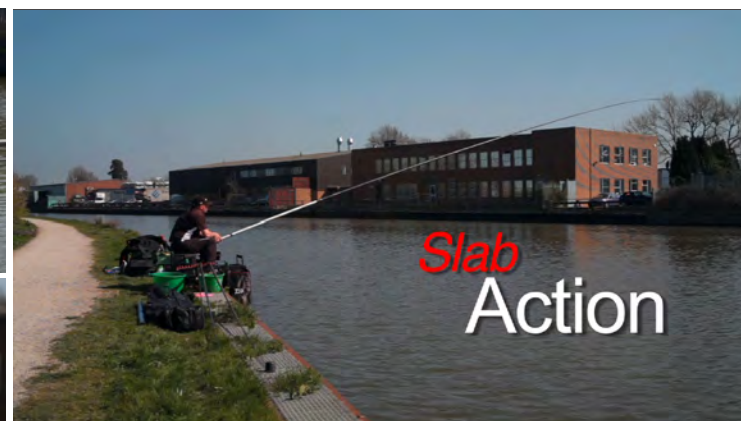
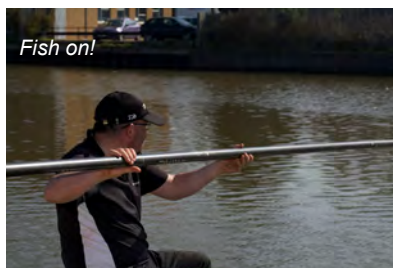
If I start to get indications on the long pole, liners, missed bites or just bubbles but no bites, then I could try dead red maggots or chopped worms on the hook as some of these have been introduced in they feed.

BREAM ACTION

Well I fished the long pole swim for about 15 minutes, I had not seen any signs but then the float dipped slightly, I left it and then it went under and I've hooked a good fish. The important thing now is to take my time, it could be a decent roach or a good skimmer but it is not nodding its head like a bream so I am not sure what it is. Just ship the pole nice and smoothly back onto the rollers and break down just as smoothly. Remember the rig is long about 6 metres and so you need to break down the pole to take account of this when netting the fish.

I take my time as I'm fishing light, the rig is deep and so I ease the pole round so that it is parallel with the towpath, this helps to bring the fish closer to the bank and within netting range. The margins here are straight into deep water so you can ease the fish quite close before bringing it up to the surface. The canal water is quite coloured and as soon as that fish comes up from the deep and sees the light it will probably start to fight harder so keeping it deeper until it is within netting range is a good idea.

The fish comes up to surface and I'm able to net it and I am somewhat surprised that it is a proper bream about 3 lb and a great start to they session. It didn't nod like a bream although it felt a reasonable fish but I am very happy with it as the first fish from the long pole swim.



[CLICK TO LAUNCH ACTION VIDEO](#)



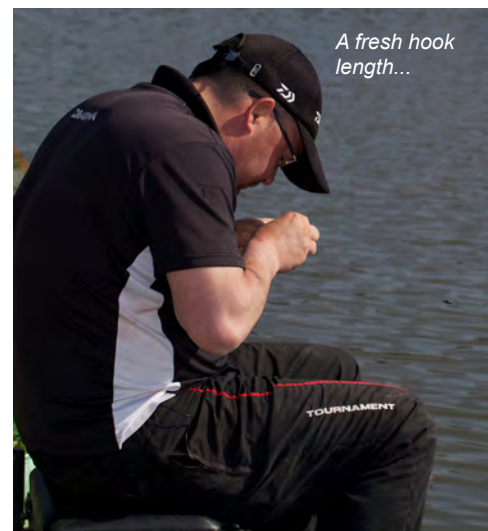
BACK IN

So another four bloodworm go on the hook and back in the swim the rig goes. This time there is another spell of inactivity for about ten minutes before the first of a couple of indications show on the float bristle, one I struck at when the float went under and missed the bite - probably a liner - and then I hit another good fish that actually felt like a good eel. The hooked fish moved along the canal in the deeper water then snagged me and I had to pull for a break. That is where a difference in the hook length and rig line diameters makes a difference as you will likely only lose the hook and it is simply a case of attaching another identical hook length from the hook box.

Because I have lost a fish, and eels do tend to turn the bottom over, I felt that a top up was in order and so a ball of double leam and joker went in over the initial feed.

After that top up I don't see any signs for a while but I'm not too concerned because I'm not looking for hundreds of bites from big fish and the bream can turn up in numbers at any time as can roach. In fact I thought we might have had some roach by now.

Twenty-five minutes after that top up the float dived under and I lifted into another good fish. Once again the fish belies its size, it felt a good fish but I was again pleasantly surprised to see another 3 lb bream surface. With just over two hours of the session elapsed I've got two good fish in the net plus those early bits on the whip and you can see why 15 lb of fish on this canal won't require many fish.

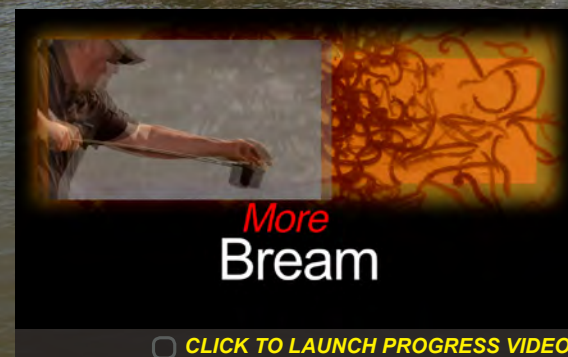


The no.5 elastic through three sections is working perfectly for these bream.

MORE ACTION

With two bream in the net I'm going to continue to fish the long pole line and see if I can maintain the bites and maybe experiment with top ups. I know in Italy in the world championships the Italians used a very wetted leam mix that holds together longer and does not break down that quickly in water so I might try some of that as a top up by over wetting the double leam mix with the atomiser.

Topping up with a ball it takes about fifteen minutes for my next bite which produces another nice bream probably about 4 lb and fairly soon after that a fish well over 5 lb arrives. These last two fish have fought much harder than the earlier two, almost carp like battles but it's just a case of being patient, steady and not doing anything rash, you do not force fish to the net on this gear but coax them gently.



So it seems like they are starting to feed well and responding quickly to the top up feeds now. This is confirmed with another bream well over 3 lb ten minutes after a top-up.

I'm still sitting and waiting patiently between bites and the action so far underlines to me that choosing to use a lighter float and smaller hook than many would do for fish of this size I can hook and land plenty of them. Even though they are big fish these bream do not take a lot of getting in but remember these are the fish that would win a match on here so just take care with each one you hook. All in all it is a good exercise in playing the fish as well as the feeding that gets them going.



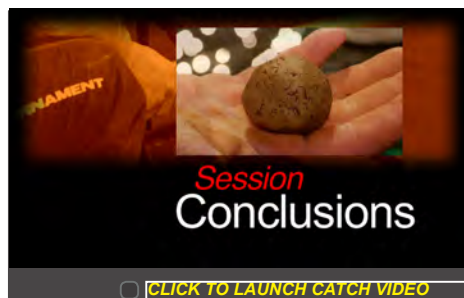
PUSHING THE PEG

Because it is a practice and I have fish responding I wanted to see what would happen if I topped up more often and for a spell I did catch a good number of bream in quick succession, again several in the 3-4 lb-plus bracket.

Interestingly though the last couple were under 3 lb and after about 4 hours of fishing the action has slowed down now so I get the feeling that maybe I pushed the peg too hard, topped up too aggressively. That said the size of the bream is excellent with several fish over the 4 lb mark.

While pushing the peg I also lost four or five fish that were foul hooked and that is probably a legacy of topping up too much, too frequently. With hindsight I conclude that just 4-5 top ups in the last four hours of the session would have been a better option so this is something I will take with me to the match. The main thing is making mistakes and learning from them is what the practice session is all about helping me to formulate an approach that I think will give me the best chance in the match itself.





GEAR & BAIT LIST

A reminder of the tackle and bait Will used in this issue.

TACKLE

- Daiwa Tournament Airity Pole with dolly butt
- Solid On 5 PI Elastic
- 0.14 mm dia. Matchwinner line on the bream rig to a 0.08 mm dia. Drennan DoubleStrength trace.
- Sensas Black Nickel size 16 hook
- Carpa Gent 1.5 gr. float
- Daiwa Powermesh 5m whip
- 0.12 mm dia. Matchwinner line to a 0.10 mm dia.trace
- Drennan Long shank Match size 18
- 4x16 Milo straight float

BAIT

- 1 bag Sensas Lake 3000 plus 2 bags of Sensas Terre De Somme
- 1 bag Sensas Terre De Somme plus half a bag of Sensas Grey Leam
- 1 bag Sensas Explosive Lake with added red Tracix colourant

RESULT

In total I've ended up with 16 bream most over 3 lb and several over 4 lb, plus those roach, rudd and a bleak on the whip early. What a cracking day's fishing and it might seem to you that what I did was bang on instead of me feeling that I topped up too much, but that is what I believe. It is never a good thing foul hooking and losing bream you always run the risk of them spooking and moving out of your swim never to return. So I reckon a steadier topping up approach would keep the fish in the swim longer without creating a feeding frenzy. These are big fish and it is always better to have one or two right around the hook bait than 6 or 7 at a time that's where the foul hooking occurs.

What this session has done so far though is given me the confidence to know that my rig choice works and is effective at landing the fish and that I am on the right track with baits and feeding. I will probably try and fit another session in between now and the event just to confirm my findings.

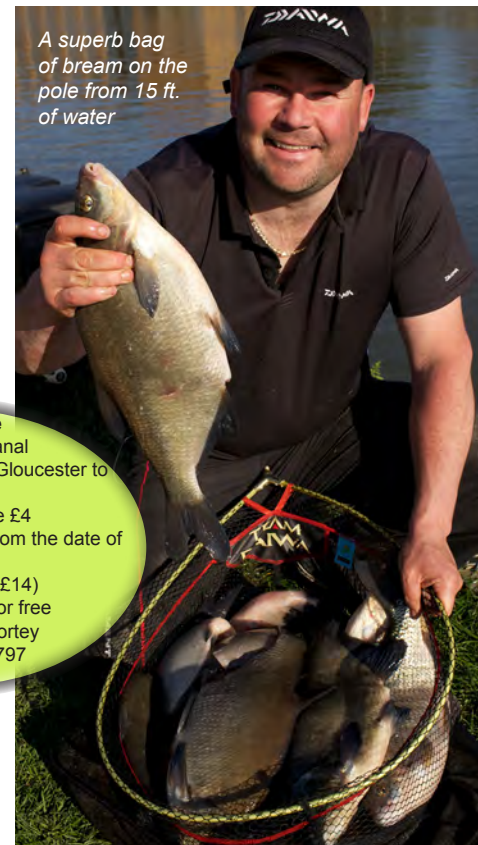
So even if you do not fish deep water canals I hope you can take from this article the need to experiment in your practice sessions, to try things and work out what has a positive effect and what doesn't so that when you are in a match itself you have a really confident plan.

If you do fish deep water canals then try a few of my tips and see if they help your catches of the quality fish. You might think given the option a feeder approach would be better but one thing about feeder fishing is that you are introducing feed every cast and that is not always a good thing, sometimes balling in a lot of bait and catching fish for periods without feeding is a better way. I also reckon that this method would be good without the bloodworm and joker, I'm not saying you'd catch as many but you would catch some by substituting the bloodworm and joker with the dead red maggots and chopped worms. **WR.**

Venue File

Gloucester Canal
16 miles of canal from Gloucester to Sharpness
Day tickets are £4
Season tickets are £24 from the date of purchase
(Over 60's pay £14)
Under 16's fish for free
Contact: Kev Fortey
on 07970903797

A superb bag of bream on the pole from 15 ft. of water



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This month I'm going to take a look at the feeders I carry and why.

CAGE FEEDERS

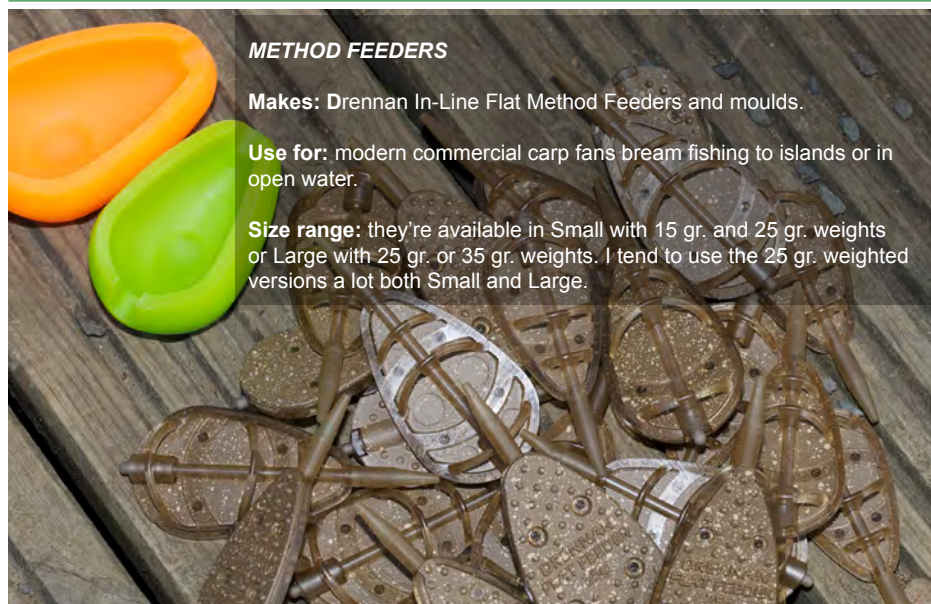
Makes: Drennan Stainless Cage Feeder and the plastic Drennan Gripmesh Feeders.

Use for: I use the stainless cage feeders for 99 percent of my open end feeder work on stillwaters and sometimes the plastic ones on deeper stillwaters or slow moving rivers when I want less bait to come out as the feeder sinks.

Size range: I use them from they micro 10 gr. size up to the ex tea large 35 gr. size when the situation demands it.



FAVOURITE FEEDERS

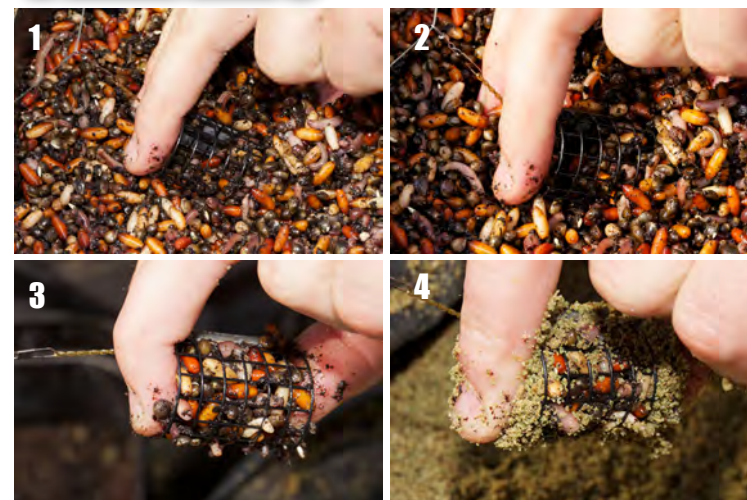


METHOD FEEDERS

Makes: Drennan In-Line Flat Method Feeders and moulds.

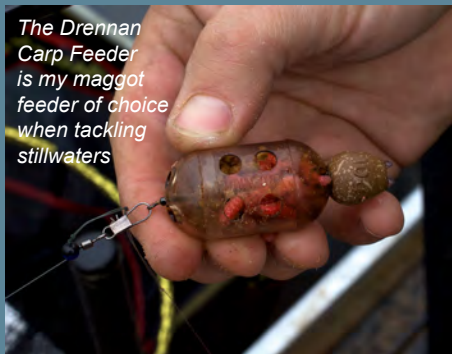
Use for: modern commercial carp fans bream fishing to islands or in open water.

Size range: they're available in Small with 15 gr. and 25 gr. weights or Large with 25 gr. or 35 gr. weights. I tend to use the 25 gr. weighted versions a lot both Small and Large.



Filling a Cage Feeder with hemp casters and chopped worms: 1 & 2 seep through the mix, 3 squeeze to compress, 4 plug the ends with groundbait and squeeze again.

The Drennan Carp Feeder is my maggot feeder of choice when tackling stillwaters



MAGGOT FEEDERS

Makes: the Drennan Carp Feeders brown with the interchangeable weight at the bottom; Kamasan Black Cap feeders.

Use for: on stillwaters I use the Drennan Carp Feeders for maggot work while on rivers I prefer the Kamasan black caps for , maggot or hemp and caster work.

Size range: the Drennan Carp feeders are available in 10 gr. 15 gr. or 20 gr. ; The Kamasan Black Caps in Mini Small and Large in sizes 10-50 gram. and I carry them all.



Kamasan Black Caps are my choice for maggot feeder work on rivers.



Drennan Oval Feeders are excellent when you don't want bait to come out on the way down on rivers or deep stilwaters



OPEN END FEEDERS

Makes: Drennan Oval Feeder

Use for: on rivers when I do not want the bait to come out of the feeder until it has hit the bottom. Stillwaters in winter for the same reason.

Size range: small medium large and extra large in sizes 15 20 25 and 30 gram. **WR.**

I use stainless cage feeders for most of my open end work



The feeder is a deadly way of fishing in whatever form you use





THE weather is so good now as we write this copy that I is almost summer like but as I always stress - keep an eye the temperatures as things can change so easily and quickly.

That said don't be afraid to fish summer methods when the weather is summer like even though it seems like it should be a month or two away!

Even though we have had some cold nights and frosts the warm days have struck these out as the water has been warming up so quickly and a lot of carp are now being caught in the upper layers of water with big waggler and more recently pellet waggler tactics coming to the fore. Similarly the mains are starting to produce good bags of fish especially late on.

On frosty mornings if the sun comes out and stays out you may find a slow start to the match when the feeder could be a better bet but be ware that as the water warms those on the shallower ,ethos could start to score well so this could be a month when you need to switch mid match between a deep to a shallow tactic. Maybe start of loose feeding pellet over a straight leger line and if the fish move up have the pellet wag ready. If the fish are further out beyond catapult range for loose feeding the method feeder could be the way to start with the big wag ready if you see signs of fish rolling.

Beware though the cold downturn forecast for early April could mean the method feeder or deeper pole tactics score with less carp and perhaps more bream required to do well and with it a more subtle feeding approach.

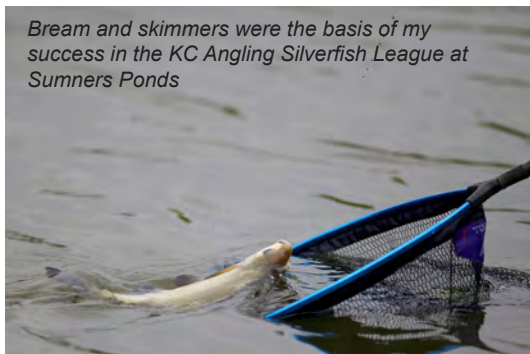
Although the carp have been feeding better and up in the water they are not fighting quite as hard as in the summer but do not be fooled with your gear - if you can get bites of the stronger stuff then go for it. It will be a very interesting month for tactics. **WR**



I have already been winning on the pellet wag this year!

I'M pleased to report that I went on to win the KC Angling Silverfish League at Sumners Match Lake with another second individual match placing in the final match of the series. That means I finished second in each match but had the best points tally. I really enjoyed the matches and in that last match I drew the Skimmer Lake on a peg that had not previously done any good and alternated micro feeder and dead red maggots with long poled soft pellet over fishmeal and pellet for 49 lb of bream to 5 lb plus skimmers. My traveling partner Mark Goddard finished second overall making it a good trip home!

Bream and skimmers were the basis of my success in the KC Angling Silverfish League at Sumners Ponds



With Daiwa Dorking I have been out practicing for the Winter League Semi Final on the Kennet and Avon canal. The practices have been good and we have caught plenty of fish although like all match lengths there are good and bad areas. As a team we are pretty confident of success.

As you know from the In Session feature I have the Sport England Angling Trust match coming up so I have been practicing for that one.

Back home I have just won the last Wednesday open at Gold valley 126 lb of carp on the pellet waggler so that just shows what great weather we had at the end of March!

I have also just become an ambassador for the Angling Trust and I'm looking forward to being one of their representatives spreading the word for the work they do. **WR**

Which Seatbox?

Q' For the first time this year I saw seat boxes from Daiwa in the tackle shops here in Belgium. I have seen you fish with all of them the last few years. Which one do you find best of the following: 302, 150, 400. The transport system has to be handy an light and the box shouldn't be to robust so I thought of the 302 but I don't know if the locking buttons (legs) and the height adjustable seat buttons are built to last for at least a few years and doesn't slip because I see the system is changed on the 150 and 400. Thanks for your answer.' Michel Adams, Belgium. Will Says: 'at the moment I use the 150 but I've used that and the 400 neither have let me down nothing breaking and the quality is great. If you want compact and light use the 150 you can always have a separate stacking system for rigs. The 400 is a good choice if you want all your rigs and gear in the one system.' **WR.**



Your Question's Will's Answers

SOLUTIONS

Got a question for Will?

eMail your question using the link below:

will.raison@v2vangling.co.uk

Clicking the link will open an email message. Compose your question and click send and we'll do our best to include it in the next issue.

Travelling With Maggots

Q 'What's the best way to travel with maggots when going away, I seem to recall that you can bag the maggots and they will last quite a long time but don't know the best way to do this or how long I can keep them bagged and still have them revive okay?' Hugh Morgan, UK. Will says 'The best way is to make the maggots very cold by storing them for a while in a fridge at 1.5-2 degrees, then remove all the dust and seal them in a bag taking all the air out. Put them in a black bag inside a cool box with ice packs. This way they will travel really well. You will lose a very small percentage but the vast majority should be just fine. Be aware that they will take up to 10-hours to come round fully and the maximum storage time in this was is 36 hours.' WR.

Avoiding Bait Spill

Q 'How do you stop loose bait bouncing out of the pot when shipping out a long pole, I seem to spill some too often for my liking.' Lee Porter, UK. Will says 'Make sure you use good quality smooth pole rollers when shipping the pole out and take your time. Another tip is to use a bigger pot than you actually need to give you room for error. Also make sure you avoid sticky hands and wipe any bait residues from the pole'. WR.



Using two good quality smooth pole rollers will help to achieve a smooth shipping of the pole when feeding

Pole Float Stems

Q 'I'm not really sure when to choose pole floats with wire stems, carbon stems or cane stems, can you shed some light on when to use each?' Baz Matthews, UK. Will says 'I use wire stemmed floats when looking for stability, for example when fishing moving water, rough water or very deep water, in these situations there can be a lot of movement so a nice stable wire stemmed float is the answer. Cane stemmed floats I do not use at all but I do use carbon stemmed floats a lot. They are good when fishing line to hand to avoid the tangles that wire stemmed floats can cause when being swung in and out quickly. Carbon stems are also the choice when you want a float with a lot of strength in the float and that means most commercial carp and skimmers situations.' WR

Wire stemmed floats are best when you need extra stability.



Use a bigger pole cup than you actually need

Deep, deep water bream.

Q 'When drawn on very deep reservoir or gravel pit pegs, say deeper than 15 ft. do you think pole or feeder would be better for targeting bream? Frank Daniels, UK. Will says 'There would be times when you can catch the bream at half depth but what I find with bream in deep venues is that they become adapted to the depth and linger around or near the bottom. For example at Bough Beech reservoir I have fished in 70-80 degrees and still caught big weights of bream in 30 ft water on a feeder.' WR.



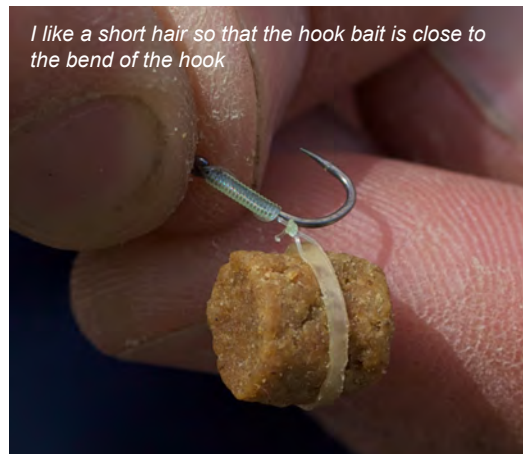
Bream become accustomed to the depth

Got a question for Will?
eMail your question using the link below:
will.raison@v2vangling.co.uk

Hair Styles

Q 'When hair-rigging is it best to vary the length of the hair for different baits or is not better to keep the hairs all the same length?' Eric Jones, UK. Will says 'I like to have no more than 1 mm between my bait and the bottom of the bend of the hook so the hook bait is still close to the hook. I believe this prevents ejection and results in more hooked fish. Have your hair too long and missed bites become a problem.' WR.

'The fixed feeder can act as an unhooking mechanism.'



I like a short hair so that the hook bait is close to the bend of the hook

Fixed Or Running Method Feeder?

Q 'On venues where fixed elasticated method feeders are still allowed would that be a better set-up than a running one or do you think the running rigs are just as effective at setting the hooks?' If I can use one set of feeders for all my method feeder work it will save a few bob!' Vic Wilson, UK. Will says 'I personally would use a running feeder rig, I'm confident with it, I have got used to it, I know how to play fish on them and when the fish are in close-quarters bouncing around I believe you lose less fish on a free running feeder as it can run up the line. The fixed feeder can act as an unhooking mechanism.' WR.



I prefer a running method feeder

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One More
Cast!

Saddle Up For 2012

OK UK match anglers I'm sure you have already but if not remember to renew your Environment Agency rod license, the 2012 licenses are required from 1st April 2012 and that's no April fool! **WR**

The April Edition of Will Raison's A World Champion's Angle, No. 40, will be available for download during the week commencing 1st May 2012 from:

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