

## **Diary of a day only Eel angler, Part 4.**

I finished off the last piece by say that I would get on the other lake on my target water and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June, I finally managed it. On entering the complex, I found the match board showed the match was finally on one of the other lakes. Being half term, I thought the complex would be packed out but on proceeding down the east bank, there was only one carper! Before I move on in this tale, I had to laugh at this bloke. There were carp everywhere all over the surface. Hundreds of fish of all shapes and sizes and all this bloke can do is sling pva bags of pellets out into the middle! In the 5 or 6hrs I fished, he blanked! Typical carper!

Spurred on by my 1<sup>st</sup> ever night time fish and 1<sup>st</sup> ever cat at 29lb (it was the smallest in the lake!), I felt confident of a fish or two although I was a little unsure of my bait. When I got to the tackle shop, they had run out of lobs and only had Dendros. Worms had been successful for me before so I had to take some. One factor that made me say yes more firmly though was my contact with Ray Hammel. He has taken eels (and pike!) on the Dendros so maybe they could work for me!

On my 1<sup>st</sup> session on the complex, I asked a few people if they had ever connected with my intended target species and one old guy pointed me to the very top corner of the right hand lake. This was where my kit was laid and I started to get set up. Some nice reeds to my right in the margins and along the top bank. Both of the big ponds are unpegged at the ends and both have a pipe, connecting aerators right down the middle, splitting them into two different sides. With that carper half way down, I had plenty to go at!



Close to those reeds in the margins had to see a bait!

I set about 'swishing' a small bait out of the margins and went to the next peg down. This peg really graded me though as it had some really nice thick reeds in the deep margins, casting a lovely shadow over the water. I had to get a bait in there with such bright sunshine! The tackle was moved down into the swim and soon a small headless skimmer was in my desired spot. The other rod, I started with the C.D. about mid way out on some broken Dendros fishing about a foot or so deep. I always break up my worms as I have probably said before, John Sidley's comments on the experiments he did with his pet eel and Steve Ricketts super sense chapter have always been etched into my mind so I want some scent working its way through the water.

Now I thought this pond might be harder than the other as the owner had described. The inside rod had the odd liner but nothing to write home about and the C.D. didn't even move! About 1pm, I decided to bring in the C.D. and get a bit of confidence flowing with another J.S. rig out into the open water. I had tried for a while to catch decent bait on the whip but they were few and far between and the ones I did get were far too big. Even the 'swishing' had dried up. Looks like I'll be teaching the Dendros to swim on both rods!

2pm came and I decided on a recast. This time though, I was going to try something a little different, I was going to try oiling the bait. The worms were pretty good so I gave them a good dosing of VDE predator plus. For pike, it's been rubbish but last winter I got some proper E.T. oil. Well, it made a total change in my catch rates so oil had to be worth a shot for eels.



My target and new P.B. at 3lb 1oz

2.20pm And the rollover is finally over! That took its time! In typical eeling fashion, I miss it! I add a smidge more oil and put it back out. Not 5mins later and the same rod are away again. This time it's

a proper jerky run! I close the bail gently, let the slack go and strike. Well, the rods round and connected but nothing is moving. Then, it powers off staying deep. This must be a carp as its really using its weight to its advantage! I get it up towards the surface and things are becoming more eel like as the fight is getting quite jagged. On the surface and it's a cracking chunky eel and my hopes are height for a P.B. in the upper twos. In the margins and its going mental, thrashing the water to foam. Those damn fishery speci spoons aren't helping as the eel keeps the tip of its tail out all the time!

At last, it's in the net and I rest it in the margins while I get all the camera and unhooking gear together. On the scales, I can't believe it. It's my season's target, my first 3lber at 3lb 1oz. This one gets measured too. 32.5" x 6". The best thing about the whole capture is its hooked square in the bottom lip.

Being a little cheeky, I chuck out the same bait, and unbelievably, it's off again in 20 minutes. This is a whole different fight and even though I'm hoping for a massive eel, in comes an orange and white Koi. It's a bit tatty but at nearly 8lb, it's another p.b. I'm not complaining at a cat, an eel and a Koi p.b all within a week!



The bonus Koi at 7lb 13oz

I get one final run before the end of the session and this reviles a long length of unattached trailing line! Weird!

Just as I'm packing up, a match man comes round and I tell him what I've caught. I'm pulling up my keep net and offer to show him my special fish but he doesn't care. It makes me realise, this is part of the reason I go eeling, such little competition!