

Diary of a day only Eel angler, Part 6

As I was on a bit of a roll and catching eels from a lot of waters, I was confident of getting a good net of fish out of my campaign water. I did have yet to blank on there as well. On pulling into the car park, the lake I had my 3lber from is the open one and I couldn't be happier.

I manage to get both rods out by 10.45, one on the lobs and the other on a headless dead. I get a possible missed run on the lobs and another odd run where the rollover tips up but no line is ever taken. It only takes about 50 minutes before the dead is off on a positive run. My initial strike just takes up a load of slack but on striking again, I'm surprised how well my 3lb rods bend! There is a solid weight on the end of the line. It takes a few moments to get this fish off the bottom and it's a cracking fight. Up on the top and it's a good eel, another nice chunky fish. Gills flaring and it does not want to be near the net! Finally, I get it in 1st time (which is unusual) and it slaps its tail hard on the surface. I get all the kit ready.



My 2nd P.B. of the month at 3lb 8oz!

This fish is only hooked in the scissors so it comes out easily. The problem came to weighing it. Something that I was shown a few yrs ago was even if you zero the scales and sling, always reweigh it after the fish has been weighed. I cheated myself out of a 3lb perch once like this! Well, this eel went to around 3.12, I put it on the mat and the scales were over! Reset and try again, and it does a similar thing. In the end, I settle for 3lb 8oz, another new p.b in a month! This one is a bit long as well at 37" x 7". That's over 3 feet long! A couple of photos and it's safely in the keep net. I was bouncing off the banks after that fish!

With my 1st two eels out of this pond both being over 3lb, I decide to try what was to me a slightly larger bait. Out of the 17 fish I had from my campaign water, only 1 had been a narrow head and it was the smallest fish. Out went a headless roach and I was confident of another good fish. As the worms were so quiet, I switch the other rod to a dead as well.

Just before lunch time, that rod is away about on connecting, there's a second of resistance and then things are slack. I reel in and the wire has slipped from under the crimp and I have lost my hook! An unchecked hook link! Stupid mistake that one! Not long after, that roach is away and I connect. Adrenaline is pumping with hopes of a good fish. It some up on the surface after a fairly good scrap and it's not what I was expecting! The scales read 1lb 3oz! Bang goes the theory of big bait equals big fish!

As I quite often use headless baits, I always keep the head back for change bait. With headless bait on one rod and a head on the other, it's the head that goes off next but I miss it. A bit later and the headless bait is away and this one is connected with. It's another smaller fish at 1lb 7oz. I wouldn't normally take a picture of a smaller fish unless I was desperate but this fish was being so well behaved and was also, what I had heard described, looking very much like an eel getting ready to migrate. It had huge eyes!



Huge eyes on this 1lb 7oz fish

This fish brought the bait back in with it, still attached to the hook so I try it again. 5 minutes it takes before it's away but a poor strike sees nothing attached! Things are really heating up now though! Same bait is tried yet again. 30 minutes this time and the same thing, crap strike, missed fish but same Rudd!

5 minutes later and the head bait gets dropped so I reel in, check it and get it back out. Then something happens that really has me frozen. The head has been out 5 minutes and it's away. I just pick up the rod and the other rod goes! What the hell do I do! I decide to strike the rod in my hands but nothing connects. I drop that rod and close the bail arm on the other rod and strike. Unbelievable, that gets missed as well! What a situation that could have been! After that double run, its all goes quiet and I finish my session with no more fish.

While I had that 3rd fish on the bank, the owners father/in law sees me with the fish and the bait. He's ok about it but tells me not to get caught and I said I have permission. Well, I do have permission...to use the baits that are so small, they fall through the mesh as I swish them out, not the sensible sized Rudd that are everywhere! To be honest, it's put a bit of a dampener on my fishing since. I am not sure why. Two eeling sessions have turned into blanks since, one of them, the bailiff telling me he found a near 4lb fish with its guts pulled up into its mouth! Even a bagging carp session didn't seem to make things easier, it was almost boring.

It's not all doom and gloom for me though. I have fished constantly for nearly 20 years and there's always something capturing my imagination. A trip to an old pond that the club have reopened revealed some absolutely stunning roach. Not massive fish but with the black death taking so many silvers, this fish took my breath away. Something definitely for the winter.

Work has got in the way of my fishing now so the break will do me good. I am hoping to get back on the campaign water soon and put things right. A big bag of eels will soon sort me out again I'm sure.

People sometimes think were mad going fishing but god, at times it can be one emotional roller coaster but nothing will ever change the feeling of a big snake dropping over the net cord!



These rods will be bent again very soon!