

Diary of a day only Eel angler, Part 7

I left my last article on a bit of a wobbler. I knew I would be fishing again so it wasn't all bad.

The 1st trip back out was with a friend of mine for a spot of summer lure fishing so he could get an article together. Even though I blanked, what an eye opener to the art of wobbling! In the clear water of the local river, a pike be lined a wobbled roach and absolutely slammed it! What an incredible sight!

I finally made it back to my campaign water a couple of weeks after the last session. The water level had shot right down in the weeks that had passed since the last session and there was no chance of 'sweeping'. Deciding not to fish too big a dead, I decided to stick with the lobs on both rods. I had only caught 1 carp on worms and 1 perch on a dead out of 6 sessions, surely it wasn't a bad bet! Well, 10 minutes in, I had my 1st run. Plenty of line running off, hit it and it's on. Bit of a rubbish fight and low and behold, it's a bream! How typical! There are some good bream in there and I have only ever taken one bream over 3lb and that was while carping! This one though wasn't going to trouble the scales or the camera at about a pound and a half.



Back fishing but forgot the rollovers!

It's fairly quiet through the morning with only one missed run about half hour after the bream. Come 1.20pm though, things start to change and this is how my diary reads:

'Missed run approx 1.20pm L/H rod. Approx 2.05pm, dropped run L/H. Approx 2.10 missed run L/H. Approx 2.15 drop back on R/H. Yet another missed run, L/H rod approx 2.35. Classic dropped run at 2.45 as the line get caught on the lip of the spool somehow! L/H yet again!'

I was getting frustrated now because this was major action! That's 6 runs with 5 in 40 mins! Finally at 2.50pm, I connect and it's finally an eel! It may only be 1lb 3oz but I'm glad to get that one in the net! Then, it all starts again:

'Dropped run 3.05pm L/H, Bream (small) 3.20pm hitting twitches in the line on R/H rod and yet another missed run 3.30 R/H. Missed run 3.35pm R/H, Dropped run 3.40pm L/H. 6 missed, 5 dropped, 1 connected.'

I usually leave the rods on the floor as I pack up and as I put the L/H rod down and pull up the alarms, the R/H rod tears off! The eel puts up a good scrap but close in, it tangles the lead tail with the rod on the floor. I get it in the net ok and flick the hook out as it's only in the scissors. It was also worth the wait as it's a 2 at 2lb 3oz (33" x 5 3/4"). My 5th of the season.

Just after I release the fish, a pole angler shouts up have I got any scales, I say yeah and one of the biggest framed mirror carp I have ever seen is put on my mat! At 19lb 6oz, I wouldn't mind one of them as a nuisance species!



1st on the C.D.! Confidence boost!

The next session was another fortnight later but what a disastrous start. Heavy rain and I forget my waterproofs. I then have to go to two different shops to get two tubs of lobbies, one in the town I live, and the other near the venue. Then on the bank, I haven't got my rollovers! By a stroke of luck, when I fish 3 rods, as I only have 2 rollovers, I use one of my homemade perch bobbins on the 3 rod. I also keep 2 in my alarm case. My piking friend showed me how to make them and using them drop off style during an eel campaign, he took a fish of 5lb 15oz so they obviously work.

The bad luck is soon forgotten though as within 5 minutes of casting out, I have another 1lb 3oz eel on the bank, and at 11.10am, I manage to hook and land my p.w. (personal worse) at a weighed 4 1/2 oz!

After that, it all starts again. Some of the most frustrating fishing I have ever done! In 20 mins, I have a missed run and 2 dropped. One thing that I feel doesn't help matters is my butt grips. I use quite tight fitting E.S.P. ones and I'm sure they send a bit of a jolt down the line as I pick up the rod, hence the dropped runs.

I suffer from another dropped run at 11.45, exactly the same as the others, this time I pull the slack up gently and feel resistance. I wind in and it feel like weed but on the surface, I see an eel a split second before it just falls off! Should have struck! I wasn't big but it wasn't tiny!

With all the rods going off at a silly rate, I decide to bite the bullet and rig up a C.D. It only catches big eels (only joking!). A few missed runs later and the C.D. registers a run! I'm shocked as it's a 1st! I miss it completely but it isn't long before that rod has my attention again. A few bleeps and I decide to unclip the bobbin myself. The line tears off and I am met with a fighting fish! It's a good scrap and I get it in the net but the rig is a total mess. You are all probably familiar with Mr Messy from the Mr Men, well, the rig looked like him! The eel goes 15oz and I take it as a P.B. narrow head.



I didn't catch this one!

Things go back to normal after than with a load more missed runs. At 3.50pm though, one rod goes off and as I stand from my chair, off goes the other! I decide to close the bail arm on one in a hope the fish will hook itself and try and hit the other. Both are missed, well, one missed, one dropped. Final tally for the day ends at 10 missed, 3 dropped, 1 lost and 3 landed. On pulling up the keep net though, there's more than 3 eels in the net. One fish has coughed up a partly digested 6" roach! That's a bit of an eye opener and also frustrating that I was only really allowed to use fry bait!

That turned out to be the last eel session of the year for me as I decided to start piking a week early. 1st session, I take a nice river jack on a trotted roach and then decide to fish my favourite drain. Mackerel is a rubbish bait for me but 10 minutes after casting out a whole Joey, a strike meets very resistance only for the hooks to fly out. All I can see is a shadow of what looks like a pike with a Joey

clamped along its jaws. We stare at each other for about 10 seconds before it just sinks out of sight. You can't win 'em all as they say. Fishing would become boring otherwise without the whoppers that got away!

Here then ends the writings of my 1st season after specimen eels. I may have only taken 2 3lbbers and done all my sessions during the day but I am constantly learning and most importantly catching. My target of a 3 was met, twice and with 27 fish out of 14 sessions (4 blanks), I reckon that was successful. I don't know if I will hit the water again next year while there are still eels to be caught or move on. The pike water I am on is 80 acres but is producing a lot of carp. Interestingly though, I am getting dropped runs and mauled baits and have heard of good eels coming out in the summer although Ray Perrett didn't rate it!

Whatever you decide to do, make sure you enjoy it. That's why we go fishing in the end isn't it?



A river torpedo. Enjoying myself? You bet I am!