



Esox Bites !



The official newsletter for the Cambridge Region of the Pike Anglers Club of Great Britain

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www.pacgb.com
The Official Website of
**The
PIKE ANGLERS' CLUB
of
Great Britain**
The club for ALL pike anglers

Welcome to our latest newsletter! A lot has happened since our last letter, not least of which I am pleased to report that Mark Phillips is making extremely good progress following his cancer treatment. He is now back in the swing of things and out catching lots of fish. Well done Mark, keep up the good work.

I am of the impression that members have not done a great deal through the warmer months but I have no doubt that the impetus will be increased now that we are into the "traditional" pike-fishing season. From a personal view point I have got a couple of good trips coming up in the fairly near future on Rutland and a long weekend break to Loch Lomond and Lake of Menteith. Hopefully I will be able to tell you some good news about those trips in the next issue.

We have the Marie Curie event coming up on the 27 October and at the time of writing we know that there are something like 70 anglers will take part. We know from the Marie Curie girls that next years event is going to go national with qualifiers around the country being ably assisted by the PAC Regions where the qualifiers are taking place. Once again I will be looking for help and assistance on this in 2003 and I know that I can rely on you to provide that.

Our web-site is well and truly up and running and my thanks once again to Colin Brett for making the whole thing possible. Please feel free to visit us at www.cambridgepac.co.uk and once again can I please appeal to you all to take an active role in contributing to both our newsletters and indeed to the web-site.

It only remains for me to wish you all a very successful season and I look forward to seeing you at our meetings and on the bank.

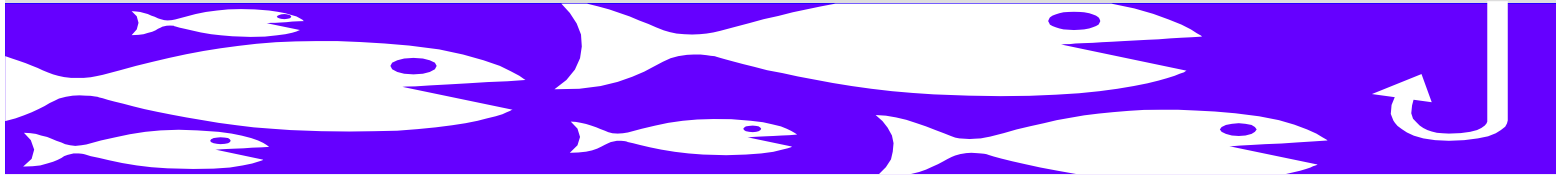
Dick Culpin

Cambridge PAC Regional Organiser

Cambridge PAC Meetings - 2002/03

All meetings are held on the first Wednesday* of each month, and commence at 8pm. Our location is the Bottisham British Legion Club, Downing Close, Bottisham, Cambs. There is a fully licensed bar and a raffle with prizes for the winners. An entry fee of just £3 is charged which contributes towards raffle prizes and regional funds.

- December 4th - Esox Quiz Night - following on from last years quiz night, we have decided to run this again. Asking the questions is Dick Culpin, with prizes to the winners and a days fishing with Dick for the losers!
- January 15th* - Members Night - Mark Phillips and friends will be giving us an insight into pike fishing Blithfield Reservoir in Staffordshire, with a talk and slideshow.
- February 5th - Wayne Bailey & Steve Hinks from Blackpool - these two very successful pike anglers will present a slide show on their fishing exploits across the Lake District.
- March 5th - Jon Atter returns to give a talk on his fishing year, including barbel and pike from the tidal rivers of Sussex. Not to be missed!
- April 2nd - Our last meeting will be another member's night - with presentations from our own regulars.



News and views from around the Region

<Bad news from the Old Bedford River at Welney, between 140,000 and 200,000 fish have been wiped out. Large numbers of fish have been cleared away by the EA, but more are now appearing. The cause is as yet unknown, but it could be a discharge of effluent into the already low oxygenated river or indeed a complete loss of oxygen. English Nature are most disturbed at this huge fish loss and are worried that the Spined Stone Loach could have suffered badly, as this river is one of the few locations it still survives in. The pollution covers a 3 to 5 kilometre stretch of river from upstream of Welney towards Salter's Lode. The local angling club, Welney AC, rely heavily on this stretch of water for a lot of their revenue, however all is not lost as the River Delph is not affected and is still available for fishing.

<An updated list of Fenland Thirty pound pike is now online. Check it out now on the Ely/Fenland region website, www.elyfenlandpac.co.uk. This list has been researched and published by Denis Moules over a period of several years. However Denis is always happy to receive information of any others that have slipped through the net! There is also a great article about the river Cam by Denis on the Cambridge PAC web-site.

<It's been a busy time for a number of our Regional members with the annual opening of the Anglian Region trout waters. Trips to Pitsford Reservoir and Rutland Water have yielded some good fish for some of our members, all being taken on lures of course. With Blithfield coming up, we wish the lucky lads who have been invited to the pike trials taking place there this year the best of British, as they try to track down those elusive thirty pounders!

<Closer to home and reports are that the Fens have not started to fish yet. Lures seem to be the favourite method and a number of our members have been taking some good fish from the drains and rivers on all manners of plastic and wooden creations! It's no surprise to many that the pike fishing in early October has been hard, as the weather has been unseasonably warm. Hopefully autumn will soon arrive and by the next issue of this newsletter we'll have some updates on who's caught what; either that or we'll be moaning about high winds and flooding, and nooooo pike!

Pike fishing Tips - each newsletter will now include this small tips section. If YOU have any pike fishing tips that others may benefit from, please contact the Editor. This month, **Drop-Off Indicators** ...

Legering deadbaits without a float is probably the most popular method of pike fishing in the UK. To provide good bite detection it is best to use a drop-off indicator in conjunction with a fixed spool reel, with its bale arm open. It's very common to see these indicators set-up incorrectly, and thus not able to correctly register a take from a pike. It is essential that there is no room for upward movement of the indicator when set to register a run, and that the bobbin is heavy enough to drop back should a pike move towards the rod with the bait. Ideally, the indicator should lie just underneath the spool of the reel. A line clip with adjustable tension allows for the bobbin to drop away from the line the instant a pike picks up the bait, and offers it minimum resistance, thereby reducing the chances of the pike ejecting the bait before you can set the hooks. If you are using a braided mainline ensure that it is not gripped by the clip on the bobbin so that slack line takes will still be indicated.

To submit any news or articles for this newsletter, please contact
mark.phillips@pbfs.co.uk tel. 01279 814840 (after 8pm please)



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