

An article submitted by Dave Hemmings (Monty's Arch Nemesis) on the setup he uses for pole fishing at the Warren, in particular the Match Lake.

Dave was the 2005 Shell Club freshwater champion and won the competition which was over a series of 6 matches in impressive style just polefishing in every match. Unfortunately he didn't repeat his win in 2006.

POLE FISHING AT THE SHELL CLUB'S MATCH LAKE

Due to the nature of the pools the pole lends itself very easily to fishing there particularly for carefully presenting the bait over the weed and then keeping the bait still.

The type of pole you use will of course be governed by the depth of your pocket my only suggestion if looking for a pole is to ensure it's up to the job. That is to say suitable for exerting instant and sometimes prolonged pressure on fish just to keep them out of the weed.

You will not very often need to fish further than 13 metres so the weight of the pole is not something that features too highly, however, a light pole does alleviate fatigue especially when holding the pole all day. I don't use a front spray bar/ bump bar or rest as I feel too many bites can be missed when using one, this is my personal opinion and works well for me.

I am using hollow core elastic again your choice, hydro is good but expensive the Preston is less so and also excellent. The green and blue Preston or the hydro black and grey cover most areas.

The most important area is the actual terminal rig; it is this that does the business!

Believe it or not I am not too bothered what make of rig line I use as long as the stated diameter and breaking strain are reasonably accurate. Currently I use Shimano Antares silk shock in 0.14mm diameter which is a realistic 4 lbs b.s. This is what all my Warren rig are mounted on seldom do you need to go stronger. For hook lengths 0.12 mm of the same line type usually 20 cm long joined using the standard loop to loop method. The actual hooks are the Kamasan 711 barbless mostly size 15 I will use a smaller size 18 in Preston PR21 if the fish are in a less pressured area with no real snag's.

The match lake is generally not too deep with most swims no more than 6 feet or so. The floats I use usually have a minimum 1 gram load some times more and the bulk is always set about a third way up from the hook. Then I like to incorporate a couple of small no11 droppers the closest to the hook just above the joined loops another half way to the bulk. The actual type of float is your own choice but must have the ability to stand up and settle quickly and sit stably in a side wind. If you have rushes the depth is generally not to great and a smaller float taking about .3 or .4 will be about right (you may consider not having a hook length and attaching the hook direct)

Plumbing the swim is not to be rushed, use a good size plummet to discover the ridges bumps and composition of the bottom look for weed beds snags etc. The best line of attack is to locate a hard bit of flattish bottom and it is here the trap should be set.

Using a pole cup approx 150ml carefully cup in some of the bait you are using good combinations are soft expander pellets and dynamite swimstims 3 mm pellets Luncheon meat/ and swimstims or if you like to use corn the a combination of corn and casters works well this will also get you a few reasonable roach. If the swim is fringed with rushes or has feature like a lily bed it would also benefit you to bait an area close to that. This is the area to use your stronger elastic.

You may have to wait a while for the fish to arrive and a good tip for when they do is to only re feed if the bites drop of as fish here do not like bait dumped on their heads.

Ensure you have a landing net up to the job and a spacious net for your catch.

Tight lines,

Dave