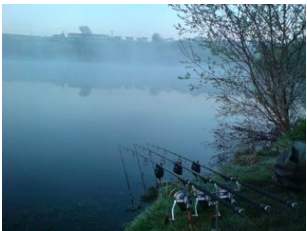


Argal nr Falmouth

This is the first of a series of short articles on fishing the Trust's Cornish carp waters, starting off with Spring fishing at Argal Reservoir.

Argal is 65 acres of deep, windswept water, which for the fainthearted can be quite a daunting prospect. The reservoir is low stocked and holds less than 100 carp. It's 20 odd feet deep in places and full of old stone walls, large rocky areas and tree stumps. The reservoir also holds massive bream, and lots of them, along with big Roach, Rudd, Perch and Pike. The barrow journey to the distant swims is a bone shaking nightmare... Still interested?



Spring time and it's all starting to wake up!

Location. As the spring kicks in and everything comes alive the carp are on the move and on the lookout for food. They move out of their winter haunts and look to follow the warmer winds. You'd have needed a trip to Specsavers to see a carp show throughout the winter, but keep your eyes peeled for showing fish at this time of year.

Rigs. Rigs used for Argal need to be efficient but most of all safe. I find that running rigs work best fished in conjunction with semi-slack lines. Lines needs to be strong, no less than 15lb breaking strain and stuff that could pull a car if it needed to!

Baits. The best bait to approach the reservoir with is boilies, there's nothing better, and the carp love 'em. Good quality bait will always give you the best chance of success whether you go for bottom baits or pop ups as hook bait. All work on their day, but definitely go for quality bait!

If you do have a dabble at Argal and are lucky enough to hook a carp you'll need a large 36 inch plus landing net and a thick padded large unhooking mat. Also it's a good idea to have some medication with you to treat hook holds.

Argal carp are some of the best looking, most stunning fish the southwest and indeed

Volunteers transform Argal

Argal has recently undergone some major path works courtesy of a team of volunteers. The path around the



the country has to offer, and we want to keep them that way. The carp grow to weights of over 30lbs and are over 30 years old.



An early spring mid 20 - the rewards are there.

To sum up ...

The rewards are in the lake if: you're prepared to take on a challenge, brave the weather, use all your angling ability and are constantly at the top of your game. If you can handle blank after blank and still come back for more in pursuit of that one carp which makes it all worthwhile, then Argal could be the place for you.

I'll be back in future issues with a quick look at Bussow, Boscathnoe and Porth!

Tony Welch



lake has been levelled and drainage installed to improve the access. There is also a new stone path leading from the car park down to the lakeside walk. A huge thank you in particular must go to Nigel Cocks, Adam Spindley, Big Wayne and 'Sneaky Reeky'!

worth a cast ...

Upper Tamar, near Bude, with mirror carp to 40lb and commons to 30lb
Bussow near St Ives with mirror and common carp to 28lb
Porth near Newquay with carp to 25lb, pike over 20lb and 50lb+ bags of bream

Slade Reservoir Ilfracombe, North Devon

Tucked away on the outskirts of Ilfracombe is Slade Reservoir. This venue provides something for all types of angler with various different species of good quality and quantity. The lake provides good cover for the fish among the heavy weed beds and there are other features like overhanging trees and draw off tower to fish too. The lake reaches depths of 30ft by the dam and gradually shallows towards the car park end.

This 6 acre mixed fishery holds carp to 30lb, pike to 28lb, perch to 4lb, bream to 7lb, tench to 5lb and roach to 2lb.

Venue regular John Shapland has had some recent success at the lake with the capture of this 3lb 3oz perch which was taken on crumb and maggot feeder with a sweetcorn tip. John said,



"The perch took a sweetcorn hook bait while I was fishing for bream, resulting in a new personal best".

John and fishing partner Alex Griffin have been catching bags of 50lb plus. John said, "I had bream to 4lb and roach to 8oz on maggot. One of the larger roach was unfortunately taken by a 15lb plus pike less than 1 metre from the bank! We fished Slade the week before and had larger bream to 5 1/2lb but there were less fish

around in 30mph wind, 1ft waves and horizontal sleet showers!"

John will be entered into our Annual Prize Draw with his cracking perch.

There is a combination padlock on the entrance gate which is issued with your ticket. Tickets are available from Variety Sports **01271 862039**, Summerlands Tackle **01237 471291** or North Devon Angling Centre **01271 321399**.

For more information on Slade, please call North Devon Fisheries Assistant Ray Philpott on 01288 321262

Porth competition

update

Real Cornwall Winter League 1/3/2009

The last match of the Real Cornwall Winter League was held at Porth on 1/3/2009 with the following results:

- 1st Harry Billing Kernow Match Group 16lb 2oz from Peg 18 in the meadow
- 2nd Alan Roberts Newtown Angling 14lb 10oz
- 2nd Clint Elliot Whiteacres 14lb 10oz
- 4th Mike O Gorman Whiteacres 14lb 8oz
- 5th Mike Yates Newtown Angling 13lb
- 6th Andy Dare Whiteacres 12lb 11oz

Upper Tamar Carp Fishing Competition 27 – 29 March 2009

The first of three annual carp competitions for 2009 at Upper Tamar Lake was held over the weekend of 27-29 March. Thirteen pairs entered and expectations were high on the Friday afternoon when the draw was made. Tackle was transported to pegs and the match began at 6pm with a strong westerly wind blowing and heavy rain making conditions less favourable for carp fishing!



The weather calmed down on Saturday and fish were caught from most areas of the lake. The far end on the Cornish Bank was most productive and this continued until Sunday

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

Ray Philpott, North Devon Fisheries Assistant



Ray started work for the Trust as a volunteer back in 2003 helping out on all the fisheries in North Devon with swim work, path work, general maintenance and work party days. Ray is a very enthusiastic angler himself and was keen to pursue a career in a similar field, something which he had trained for at Bickford College many years ago before working

morning when the sun came out and put the fish off feeding. Competitors were picked up at 4pm on Sunday and catch returns were analysed to work out prizes. Thirteen fish were caught in total - not a bad return for time of year and bad conditions on the Friday night.

The prize for biggest fish went to Simon Fowler from Peg 10 on the Cornwall Bank with a cracking 20lb common. He received 5kg of bait and a t-shirt from the Cornwall Bait Company. In 4th place were Tony Johns and Paul Alexander on Peg 3 from the Devon Bank with two fish for 16lb 2oz. They received a carry all bag from Summerlands Tackle. 3rd place went to Richard Harman and Graham Palmer with a cracking fish of 19lb 8oz from Peg 5 on the Devon Bank and they received £50. 2nd place was won by Shaun Holland and Mark Lamude from Barnstaple with 3 fish for 32lb 5oz. They both won a 6 month season ticket for a lake of their choice.

The winners were Simon Fowler



and Steve Hutchinson who caught 5 fish for a good weight of 53lb 4oz from the bird hide swim at the far end of the lake and they received the £200 first prize.

Thank you to Ray Philpott for his organisation of the event, also Chris Blythe and Bob Davey for transporting all the tackle around and thank you to all the anglers for participating.
*Ben Smeeth
Estate Maintenance/
Coarse Fishing Manager
bsmeeth@swlakestrust.org.uk*

**Next Competition: 4 day
Singles Competition
Fri 26 – Mon 29 June. Entry
forms are available from our
head office 01566 771930.**

anglers. Ray has helped introduce a series of carp fishing competitions, now in its third season, at Upper Tamar with three events being run annually. All the competitions have been fully booked, anglers have had a great social weekend and some good weights have been achieved.

Should you wish to discuss any of the lakes in North Devon you can contact Ray on **01288 321712**.

I would like to extend our gratitude to all volunteers for the coarse fisheries as we would not be able to operate effectively without them; we look forward to working with you in the near future.

South West Lakes Trust Reflections Coarse Fishing Edition, Spring 2009



WHO WON?



**Upper Tamar Lake
Pairs Carp
Competition
SEE INSIDE...**



**Nick Blewitt with
a stunning brace
of 30s from
Argal Reservoir**



Inside this edition

- ◆ Upper Tamar Carp Competition a success
- ◆ Big perch caught at Slade
- ◆ Focus on staff - Ray Philpott
- ◆ Spring fishing at Argal
- ◆ Porth Competition

News.....

As part of the Trust's re-stocking policy we will be stocking Argal with a good number of carp during the summer.

Foreword with the editor

As the summer fast approaches it's time to dust off the rods and visit some of the country's most beautiful venues under management by the South West Lakes Trust. We have something for every angler: big carp, specimen roach, huge pike or a good bag of bream. Managing 13 coarse fishing lakes across the South West, I am sure we have something that will interest you.

Ben Smeeth

If you have an interesting story or picture that you would like to be included in a future issue, or if you would like to be on the mailing list for this newsletter, please contact bsmeeth@swlakestrust.org.uk



**For up-to-date news & information check out our website
www.swlakestrust.org.uk**