

# HOW TO...

# Fish the Old Lake

Bury Hill's Old Lake has long been regarded as one of the best winter predator waters for pike and zander. At 12 acres, the Old Lake has a large choice of swims offering plenty of features, whilst a fleet of purpose built punts provide exclusive access to a large wooded island and the infamous jungle.

## Species

Bury Hill boasts a huge head of pike and shed loads of zander. An amazing 100 or more double-figure zander are reported each season, with specimens to over 16lb being caught, making Bury Hill arguably the best day ticket zander fishery in the country. Quality pike also feature heavily, with a big head of doubles averaging 12-15lb, numerous twenties and the odd fish approaching the magical 30lb barrier.

## Methods

Over many seasons, certain presentations have proved to be the most consistent catchers, and make the ideal starting point when looking for pike and zander

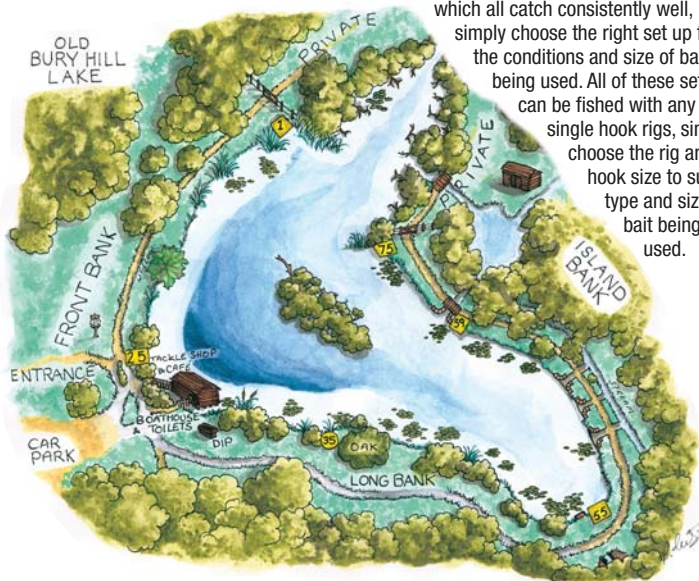
action. There are three methods which work consistently well, the Roving Float, Float Ledger and Running Ledger, which can all be fished with our barbless single, hair or double hook traces.

## Tackle

Firstly we do not allow SEA TACKLE to be used, anyone fishing for pike and zander must have a suitable rod. A 12' 2 3/4 lb test curve rod coupled with a baitrunner reel (or any good reel with a smooth clutch) is ideal, minimum line strength should be 12lb BS. You will also need a selection of good quality ready-made predator single hook rigs, which must be barbless, sizes 8, 6 and 4 are ideal, a full selection is available from our tackle shop. You will also need a handful of small leads, sizes 1/2 oz to 2 oz, Arsley bombs are probably best, an assortment of small floats, both sliders and dead bait pencil (loaded where possible) with the correct size Olivetti's or bullet weights to suit. A pack of float stops, link swivels and a selection of hard/soft beads is also a must. When using barbless hooks, baits can be held on the hook using either bait flags or small 1/4" pieces of elastic band.

## How to Tackle Up?

There are three tried and trusted set ups which all catch consistently well, simply choose the right set up for the conditions and size of baits being used. All of these set ups can be fished with any of our single hook rigs, simply choose the rig and hook size to suit the type and size of bait being used.



## FOR PREDATORS!

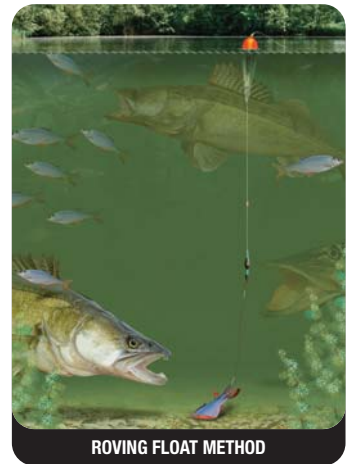
PREDATOR SEASON RUNS FROM 1ST OCTOBER TO 14TH MARCH INCLUSIVE!



RUNNING LEDGER METHOD

### RUNNING LEDGER

Probably the most successful method, the running ledger rig will allow you to fish small and large baits close in and at distance. To tie this rig, thread a rubber float stop onto your line (this should be positioned 12" from the trace once the rig is finished), followed by a link swivel and a rubber bead to protect your knot from chaffing. Next tie on your predator trace, which should have a swivel already attached, preferably using a 4-turn grinner knot. Make sure that the knot is bedded down smoothly as our predators pull HARD. Lastly, attach a small Arsley bomb to the link swivel, generally a 1oz bomb will be plenty big enough, but the smaller the better.



ROVING FLOAT METHOD

### ROVING FLOAT

This method is ideal for fishing small dead baits and fish sections in shallow and mid water swims. For best results, fish your bait either just on the bottom, or suspended off the bottom so that the float can drift through the swim in search of your prey. To tie this set up, slide a rubber float stop onto the mainline followed by a small sliding pike float, then slide a

second rubber float stop on the line to hold the float at the required depth. Next slide an Olivet or small bullet weight onto the line to weigh the float down, but remember to allow for the weight of your bait, particularly if you intend to suspend the bait for drifting. If you are using a sliding weight, add a rubber shocker bead between the weight and the swivel to protect the trace knot from chaffing before tying on your trace, which should have a swivel already attached, preferably using a grinner knot (see knot advice above).



FLOAT LEDGER METHOD

### FLOAT LEDGER

A very successful set up, which is perfect for windy conditions when you want your bait to stay put. To tie this rig, slide a rubber float stop onto the mainline followed by a small or medium sized dead bait pencil float, preferably one that is loaded. Next slide a second rubber float stop onto the line to hold the float in place followed by a link swivel and a rubber bead to protect your knot from chaffing. Next tie on your predator trace, which should have a swivel already attached, preferably using a grinner knot (see knot advice above). Lastly, attach a small Arsley bomb to the link swivel, generally a 1oz bomb will be plenty big enough, but the smaller the better.

### Where shall I fish?

50% of the pike and zander caught at Bury Hill are taken within a few rods lengths of the margins. Whilst all areas produce fish on a regular basis, the old lily beds at the top of the long bank are good holding points as are the first few deeper swims along the front and long banks. Boats provide access to the island and jungle where fish lie under the overhanging bushes - try and cast as near to these as possible without actually fishing under them as this will result in lost and tethered fish. Another good area to try is the open water channel running from the boathouse to the jungle, this can be particularly productive as the light comes off the water. However please remember when boat fishing to keep 25 mts from all angling banks.

### Which baits to use?

Small dead baits, fish sections and small chunks of fish are the best baits, with both freshwater and sea baits working equally well for pike and zander. All baits must be frozen before use, live bait and freshly killed baits, whether caught on the fishery or elsewhere are strictly BANNED. With pretty much all baits working, the



favorites are small roach, trout, eel and lamprey as well as sprats, sardine and mackerel. Whilst small whole baits 3" to 4" are ideal, head and tail sections and chunks probably account for more fish, as this allows the blood and oils to leech out acting as an attractor. Chunks or kebabs as they are known are best fished on a hair rig. A large range of dead baits is available in our tackle shop.

which tend to run with the bait, a typical zander take is a series of short pulls - STRIKE THESE! Do not be tempted to let the fish run and swallow the bait as this will only lead to deep hooked fish which will ultimately die. It is far better to miss the odd take, knowing that your fish will be safely hooked!

### Vital Tips

The combination of small baits, single hooks and finite rigs that use small floats and resistant free set-ups, will generate far more takes and ultimately more fish on the bank, which is why Bury Hill operates an 'Immediate Strike' rule. Unlike pike,

### One last point!

Anyone frightened of pike or zander should not fish for them, instead, attended one of our Big Fish Angling Courses, see details below. Follow this code of conduct and not only will you enjoy your fishing, catching more fish, but also have the peace of mind of knowing that no harm will come to your quarry.



with Eric Bailey!

Whether you're a beginner or a long time angler, you can boost your confidence and catches by joining one of our Big Fish Predator Angling Courses, which are run by Bury Hill's predator guru Eric Bailey. Costing just £40 with all tackle and bait provided, there really is no easier way to learn the

specialist skills required for safe and successful predator fishing. And for anyone preferring that personal touch, Eric also offers private tuition. A four or seven-hour session with tackle and bait included, is guaranteed to give you more confidence resulting in more bites and increased fish captures.



### Fish Care!

You must have a large specimen landing net and unhooking mat (both min 42"), which is a rule of the fishery, you will also need a good set of 10" or 12" forceps.

Because you are using single barbless hooks, you should not have any problems unhooking your fish safely. This can be done in two ways, either by kneeling down straddling your legs either side of the fish, which should be belly up with its head between your knees, or by simply lying the fish on its side. In both cases, gently open the bottom jaw removing the hook with the aid of forceps. Under no circumstances use a gag! If you are having difficulty unhooking a fish, do not prod about! Return the fish to the water in the landing net and seek help from the bailiff or another experienced angler. Never attempt to carry any fish without the use of a landing net or sling and always photograph the fish holding it over an unhooking mat whilst kneeling down. All fish should be released as soon as possible, however always allow the fish to recover first by holding the fish upright in the water releasing it only when it kicks.

**PLEASE REMEMBER, BURY HILL OPERATES AN IMMEDIATE STRIKE RULE!**

BURY HILL FISHERIES, THE BOATHOUSE, OLD BURY HILL, WESTCOTT, DORKING, SURREY RH4 3JU.

TELEPHONE: BAILIFF (01306) 883621

ADMINISTRATION (01306) 877540 FAX: (01306) 877545

EMAIL: INFO@BURYHILLFISHERIES.COM