

# Fish and Chips

Exclusive by Greg Meenehan

**N**ICKNAMING big fish could soon become unnecessary, with the arrival of microchipping in angling.

The first fishery has begun electronically chipping all of its specimens, suggesting an end to the era of Lumpy, Stumpy and Stumpy's Mate.

David de Vere has led the way, by fitting tags to the first fish to go into his new lake at Bury Hill, near Dorking, in Surrey, in readiness for its opening next March.

The 13 carp of between 20 lb and 26 lb, from Walthamstow No.1 Reservoir, were all weighed and recorded as they were stocked, so that their progress can be monitored at future captures.

The slim microchips – each the



These hi-tech tags could be the way forward for precious fishery stocks



David de Vere (back) inspects one of his new tagged carp



■ Bournemouth, Dorset-based David Basher bears more than a passing resemblance to the jogging, vest sporting 118 chaps, from the directory enquiries TV commercials.

The 23-year-old head chef certainly got his numbers right when he tempted this 7 lb 1 oz Hampshire Avon chub on a legered, undisclosed particle bait.

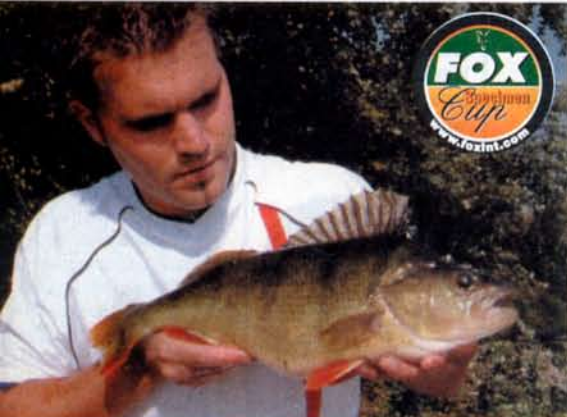
David spotted the giant two days previously, and only a week before he managed a specimen of 6 lb 12 oz from the same stretch.



■ This stunning 4 lb 9 oz 8 dr perch fell to Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire-based England fan Scott Shepherd. The 27-year-old office worker landed the awesome stripy from Hertfordshire specimen mecca Wilstone Reservoir, aiming to beat his previous best of 4 lb 1 oz from the same venue in November 1999.

Scott had to wade through hordes of small perch in the 4-10 oz range before taking the big, bristling beauty on his last cast of a morning session.

A maggot feeder approach, including 8 lb main line to 6 lb link and size 16 hook did the trick.



## Top northern lake shuts

FISH-MUNCHING cormorants have forced the sad closure of popular day ticket venue Castle Howard Lake, near York.

The Great Lake - famed for premium piking with snappers to 43 lb 8 oz, huge nets of bream to double-figure bream and quality tench – is a shadow of its former self and no longer commercially viable.

Estate manager Duncan Peake said: 'The quality of the fishing has deteriorated largely due to the presence of predatory birds such as cormorant and goosander. Despite

