

HOW TO...

Fish Bonds Lake

A prolific mixed fishery approximately 2 acres with 20 pegs. The average depth of Bonds Lake is between 1ft and 5ft, there are large beds of reeds and rushes surrounding the lake and a central island.

Species

Bonds is stocked predominately with small carp, which average 3lb to 5lbs with fish to low doubles plus roach, perch, tench and bream.

Methods

Whilst all methods will work on Bonds, float fishing is one of the best methods using a waggler float attached to the base only to eliminate wind drift (see diagram over page).



Tackle

A good quality 10 ft to 13 ft float rod with a suitable reel loaded with 6lbs breaking strain line is ideal. You will also need a couple of floats, such as an insert waggler size 3BB to 2AA and a packet of hooks to nylon: size 14/16 barbless with a 4/5lbs breaking strain hook length. Add to this a selection of shot, sizes No 8, No 4 and BB or AAA subject to the size of float you are using and a plummet. The fishery rules also state that you MUST have a suitable landing net and an unhooking mat.

We sell a good selection of budget priced rods, reels and end tackle in our shop and offer great deals on rod and reel kits.

Bait

You won't need a lot of bait when fishing Bonds and the following suggestion

should catch you plenty of fish.
1 pint of maggots and 1 tin sweet corn.

Where shall I fish?

The target fish in Bonds is carp, which average 3lbs to 5lbs. The water in Bonds is generally quite coloured which gives the fish confidence to swim and feed close to the bank, so the best spot to start is virtually under the rod top (15ft to 20ft from the bank) or close to the reeds either side of the platform.

Carp tend to feed off the bottom, especially in the warmer summer months, so it is essential that you know the depth. Before starting to fish, test the depth with a plummet weight, then set your rig so that the hook is just touching the bottom with the shot nearest the hook set 3" above. If you can't catch at dead depth or the wind is causing your float to drift, setting the float 4" over-depth will often bring an immediate response from the fish

Once you have decided where to fish, it is important to concentrate all your efforts on that one spot, think of a hoola-hoop or a circle approx 1 metre across. It may take up to 30 minutes of feeding before you even get your first bite, but perseverance is the name of the game!



How do I tackle up?

Bonds is stocked mainly with small carp which fight extremely hard especially when they are first hooked, many are lost on this first powerful surge so its vital the clutch tension on your reel is set so the fish can charge off without breaking your line.

Bearing this in mind its no good fishing too fine, reel line should be a minimum 6lbs, hook lengths 4lbs to 5lbs, a size 16 hook for maggots and a size 14 for sweet corn. A small insert waggler float 3BB or 2AA attached at the base only completes the set up. As you will be fishing on the bottom, the next step is to plumb the depth where you wish to fish, to do this pinch a large shot either side of the float to lock it in place and adjust the float so that the hook is just touching the bottom with just a small amount of float showing. Once you have done this, put the remaining bulk shot around

the float (see diagram) with a No 4 shot positioned between the float and hook and a No 8 shot 3" – 4" from the hook. It is important to make sure that the float is weighted down so that no more than 5mm (1/4") of tip is showing otherwise the fish will feel the weight of the float and drop the bait. You are now ready to start fishing!

How shall I feed?

Its no good assuming there are lots of fish in your swim just queuing up to be caught and all you have to do is dangle your bait in and one will jump on the hook. It just doesn't work like that. If you want to be successful you must work at it.

The aim is to attract a shoal of fish into your target area by loose feeding maggots, everything that swims including carp love maggots. This doesn't mean throwing in one big handful of maggots every 15 mins, little and often is the name of the game, so feed 20 to 30 maggots and a few grains of sweet corn every two minutes for the first half hour and then half that for the rest of the session. Remember if you stop feeding even for ten



minutes the fish will probably vanish. The most successful anglers are the best feeders.

What hook bait shall I use?

Start with double maggot, do not skewer the maggots through the middle as they will hang lifeless and unattractive to fish, just nick the maggot through the blunt end, it does not matter that the hook is visible. If you find you are being pestered with small fish then try a single grain of sweet corn which is an excellent hook bait for carp and will often tempt a better stamp of fish.

Vital tips

If it's windy, it's very important to beat the surface drift by sinking the line between the rod tip and the float. To do this, cast further than the area you are fishing, plunge the rod tip under the surface approximately 6" and swiftly wind

the reel handle a couple of times until the line is completely sunk and the float is in the middle of your baited area. Carp can feed off the bottom especially when you loose feed regularly, so if you are struggling to get a bite, set your float 2ft deep and remember keep feeding. Fish are cleverer than you think and can detect noise and movement on the bank, so always sit down and fish – don't jump around, and keep noise levels to a minimum.



Fish are living creatures so please be kind to them!

- Make sure your hands are wet before handling a fish.
- Land all fish using a 'fish friendly' landing net before placing the fish on an unhooking mat.
- If a fish is deep hooked and you cannot easily remove the hook using a disgorger, cut the line by the mouth and return the fish immediately to the water.
- Return all fish as swiftly as possible.
- Never lift a fish off the ground, especially to take a photograph. A dropped fish is a dead fish.
- We take a pride in our clean tidy fishery, so please do not leave any rubbish – there are bins provided near the boathouse area.

PRO-FISH
ANGLING
COURSES

Whether your a beginner or a long time angler, you can boost your confidence and catches by joining one of our Pro-Fish Angling Courses. Costing just £30, our general angling courses run from May to September with tackle and bait provided, there really is no easier way to be introduced to the fun

of fishing! For those preferring that personal touch, we also offer private tuition. If you need to improve your feeder, pole, or waggler skills, a five-hour session with tackle and bait included, should be the key to plenty more bites. Alternatively, let us help you catch a personal best by improving your carp and predator skills.



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