

HOW TO...

Fish Bury Hill's

A prolific 200 year old mixed fishery, 12 acres in size with 75 pegs.

OLD LAKE

Old Bury Hill Lake

One of the countries best known mixed fisheries, 12 acres in size with 75 pegs.

The average depth of the Old Lake is between 6ft and 7ft, although the area in front of the boathouse runs to 10ft whilst the jungle and top of the long bank are 3ft. The lake has a large central island and is surrounded by large beds of reeds and irises, there are also numerous large beds of lilies around the lake.

Species

The Old Lake holds a huge head of bream and tench averaging 4-6lbs, although fish between 7lb and 8lb are common with both species reaching doubles figure weights. There is also a big head of carp, which run to 30lb+, pike and zander, with good numbers of



roach, rudd, perch and crucian carp also present.

Methods

All methods work with pole, waggler and feeder tactics all accounting for huge catches, with float fishing being the most favoured method (see diagram overleaf).

Tackle

A good quality 12 ft to 13 ft float rod with a suitable reel loaded with 4lbs breaking strain line is ideal. You will also need a couple of floats, an insert waggler size 3AAA is ideal and a packet of hooks to nylon: sizes 12, 14 and 16 barbless with a 3-4lbs breaking strain hook length's for the summer months scaling down to size 20 during the winter. Add to this

a selection of shot, say 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

Quality bait is essential, and we recommend our fresh supply of maggots and casters as a good start. The bream and tench respond well to expander pellets over a bed of micro feed pellets, plus meat and corn also score very well too. The use of groundbait is allowed in moderation with brands like Bream 3000, Lake 3000 and Marine Halibut working the best.



How do I tackle up?

A 3AAA crystal waggler is ideal to use, bulking most of the shot around the float to help cast the distance required. Underneath the float bulk four No 8 shots above the hooklength to help hold the bait against the tow. Finally, have one No 8 four to six inches from the hook. Use 4lbs mainline as this will aid casting, plus be strong enough to handle bonus fish when striking into a bite. One of the main points to remember is to shot float right down so that there is only 1/4" of the tip showing.



Where shall I fish?

During the warmer months, due to the large numbers of bream and tench present in the old lake, you can confidently fish almost any peg and catch well. The secret is not to overfeed, using a little and often feeding policy. Once you start catching, feed to bites to keep the fish interested.

As bream and tench feed on or near the bottom, it is essential that you know the depth, so 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" to 8" over-depth will often bring an immediate response from the fish.

Choose an area 3 to 5 rods lengths out, 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 appx 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, but whatever you do, do not chuck handfuls of bait in all directions!

How shall I feed?

A small ledge runs around the lake 12-14 metres from the banks. This is always a good area to feed and cast to as fish patrol underwater features such as this. Lily pads and any margin cover are also great areas to feed. When fishing close in, always remember to set up and approach the swim quietly to avoid disturbing fish.

The aim is to attract a shoal of fish into your target area by regularly throwing bait in. This does not mean throwing in one big handful of bait every 15 minutes or so and then sitting back and admiring the



scenery – if you want to be successful you must work at it. The best anglers are the best feeders. Everything that swims loves a maggot, and feeding little and often is the key to success. Feed 20 to 30 maggots every two minutes or so for the first half hour and then half that amount for the rest of the session. If you stop feeding, the fish will quickly vanish from your swim,

so remember, keep your baiting regular and in the same area.

What hook bait shall I use?

This is very much down to the time of the season. When it is cold, baits like maggots, pinkies, casters and worms are best, but when the water temperatures rise during the spring and summer months, pellets, corn, meat and mini boilies score well. You can always get the very latest up to date information regarding areas and bait from Russ or Ken in the tackle shop.



Vital tips

The key to success is to feed little and often to keep the fish interested, and use balanced tackle with fine presentation. Remember smaller hooks guarantee more bites as it makes your hookbaits more natural to feeding fish.

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.



Whether you are 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.



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