



Where To Fish This Weekend

ON TOUR

This week: *Bill and Virginia Rushmer*



As it got warmer Virginia banked more and more crucians and tench. When Bill timed her catch rate it was only two minutes between fish!

A fish every two minutes

After its recent re-stocking of thousands of fish our competitive duo finds Milton Lake in blistering form at Bury Hill Fisheries. But initially Bill is as green as a tench with envy...

I COULD tell from her apologetic expression there was something up, as Virginia walked towards me with a bar of silver in the bottom of her landing net.

As she lowered the net I could see a huge roach - my favourite species. On my accurate Salter brass tube scales calibrated in 0.5 oz divisions, it weighed in at 1 lb 9 oz 8 dr. I confess I wished it'd been my landing net it was nestling in!

We were on Milton Lake at Bury Hill Fisheries on a sun-soaked day in increasingly leafy Surrey near Dorking. Arriving early and with frost still on the grass we hadn't needed much persuasion to partake of an early breakfast in the boathouse restaurant whilst enjoying the panoramic view of the Estate Lake.

As the sun rose and air temperatures increased Virginia was into small tench straight away and was steadily catching, with the odd crucian

thrown in near some reeds. In fact, the warmer it became the more fish she was into and the bigger they became, including some nice crucians to over 2 lb.

Her catch rate was so fast I decided to time her and found it was a couple of minutes between fish. To top it all even the resident heron turned up for some pointers!

Her float was well dotted down with only part of the tip showing above the surface of the water so that if it dipped ever so slightly, or moved to the side, she was into a bite. Less than one in five crucians actually pulled under our fine pole tips.

As the day proceeded the layers of clothing were removed as it warmed up. At about one o'clock we wound our way back to the boathouse for a welcome drink and the first ice cream of the year - it was now that warm!

On our return our roles were completely

reversed as my swim now switched on and I was catching like bullets leaving a machine gun. I had started the morning session thinking that as it was so cold maggot would score, so I had set up with a very light pole rig with two red maggots on a size 18 hook to a fine 0.10 mm hook length. I fished them over a few small balls of soaked 2 mm pellet moulded together with a few maggots loose fed.

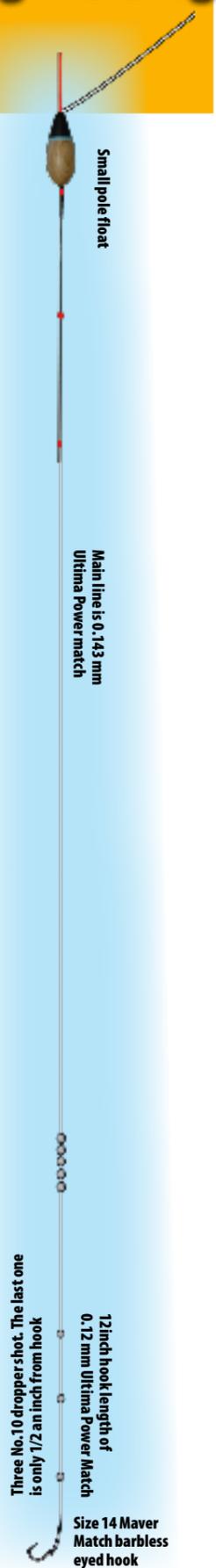
Although bites materialised from the off I only caught a few quality redfins, perch and smaller tench. I didn't make contact with any better tench or crucians. I therefore decided to follow Virginia's lead and changed over to small pieces of paste on a size 14 hook to 0.12 mm hook length over 4 mm low oil pellets and attracted crucians and the better tench from the off.

I was certainly able to put the four-piece 13 ft Korum Precision Power float rod through its paces - matting a selection of crucians, tench with some



Bill with just part of his 70 lb haul - the redfins, perch and smaller tench never made it as far as the keepnet.

Virginia's rig



roach and rudd. My favourite Aerial centrepin was loaded with 0.14 mm Ultima Power Match line with the terminal rig consisting of a small pole float on the main line with bulk shot 18 inches from the Maver Match Barbless eyed size 14 hook with three No.10 droppers, the last of which was only 1.5 inches from the hook. The 12 inch hook length was 0.12 mm Ultima Power Match Line.

Having caught approximately 70 lb of fish each, including crucians topping 2 lb, we decided it was time to call it a day.

On arriving owner David De Vere had given us special permission for this feature to use keepnets so we were able to do a few bag shots. David told us he was confident

we would fill our nets despite the frost as they had done a lot of work on this lake de-silting it to give an average depth of nearly 5 ft.

Most of the ordinary carp had been removed and transferred to other lakes on-site. All the remaining fish, including those original big crucians, tench, big perch and quality redfins had been returned to the lake and a further injection of 3,500 crucians plus loads of tench and quality redfins had been added.

And what a difference this has made! Virginia certainly gave it the thumbs up... which came in handy as she almost found herself thumbing a lift home - I hadn't forgotten about that big roach that she snuck out!



Bill changed from size 18 to size 14 hooks as he switched from maggots to paste to snatch a bigger stamp of tench and crucians.



Virginia with the 1 lb 9 oz 8 dr roach that brought out Bill's jealous streak!



A heron took up a platform next to Virginia – but it couldn't keep up with her catch rate!

FACTFILE

MILTON LAKE, BURY HILL FISHERIES, NEAR DORKING, SURREY.

LOCATION: from J9 of the M25 head south on the A24 towards Dorking, Surrey. Turn right on the A25 and the fishery is one mile on the left and clearly marked with a sign on the right hand side of the road. Dorking rail station is just over a mile from the fishery.

FACILITIES: café, ladies and gents WC, tackle shop, boats for fishing main lake, fishing courses and private tuition. There are three other lakes on-site.

TICKETS: £11.50 for one rod, two rods £17 and £5.50 for the punt. Concessions are available Monday to Saturday but not on bank holidays.

CONTACT: call the office on 01306 877540 or visit www.buryhillfisheries.com



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