

Summary of the 2017 Silver Fish League (SFL)

The SFL matches are all on early season local pools and for the first time omitting the individual's worst result. Last season we fished the three match series on one pool, for the 2017 series we have five matches and three of those on pools that the Society has never match fished before, should be interesting. The early matches can be hard sometimes breaking the ice before fishing. Truly Silver Fish Pools just don't exist anymore so you have to avoid the Carp. The additional matches are in January when bites are few. **This Silvers series brings together the "Carpers" and the "River anglers", Sorting out the "scratchers" from the "baggers".**

(1)7/1/2017; Packington Somers Aniversaries pool. Thursday morning we awoke to -7degC, Friday we had heavy rain, match day was cold, still and foggy all day with ice in the margins, Ten turned out, to keep the interest high there was a big bonus peg carried over from last season. Most went four hours biteless, then Carp switched on for half an hour but the Silvers weren't having it. The temperature dropped back a couple of degrees and that was it, back to biteless. At the weigh in amazingly two of the guys both had a 1-4-0 Chub. DH had his on Worm, HP was bringing his pole back and the elastic stretched out. Jammy yes but earlier he dropped off a small Perch. The only other Silver Fish caught was an 0-1-0 Perch caught by DJ. Throwing your Carp back and recording an 0-0-0 is hard to take. The fishery manager summed it up, "that's all that was feeding". Not too much damage done, DH & HP on one, DJ on three and the rest on four points.

(2)21/1/2017; Lavender Hall Ben's Pool. That was booked but Dragon Pool was ice free and recently stocked with silvers so we switched. New to Girling AS, the pool looked great, aerated overnight but icy cold as was the wind on this raised pool, it soon became an endurance event. Eleven turned out and we used the pegs suggested by the fishery manager. There's Skimmers, Ide, Rudd and Roach to go for and lots of tiny Perch. At the weigh in FB had 6-7-0 of skimmers fishing two 14mtr swims feeding soggy GB and a few Pinkies catching on a single red Maggot on a 22 hook. DJ weighed 3-8-0, two fish one a 2-3-0 Perch, third was CF with 1-14-0, fourth was DD with 1-7-0, some caught the odd Carp but had to register a dry net. After two matches (dropping your worst result) FB, DJ and HP are all on one point, these two additional January matches have been hard, surely it can only get better.

(3)25/2/2017; Back to Packington and this time on Gratuities. A pool we have used several times during winter and summer and the best pegs are well known. Avoiding the common Carp and Crucians (and don't forget the Crayfish) is the problem, there are some big Bream to over 5lb, Perch, Skimmers, Roach and Rudd and the occasional Tench to go for. We had hurricane Doris through on the Thursday and the weather on match day was windy and wet. 13 turned out, we put all the pegs in and hot pegs 8 and 16 were left in the bag.

Result - DD won with three big Bream for 13-9-0 on Maggot (put 20lb of Carp back), Second was his travelling partner DO on 9-2-0 (BP saved) and third was BC on 8-10-0 who pulled out of several big Bream. Heard that DO had BP blues all the way home. Points after three matches and omitting one worst result we have DD, FB, and DJ all on five points.

(4)11/3/2017; The fourth match was at Alderhanger lane, new to Girling AS. This private pool rarely match fished is hidden away over the fields and the owner provides access by unlocking the gate in the morning (driving through a couple of fields) then locking us in for the day. A lovely 22 peg snake shaped pool full of features with all species including Grass Carp, Commons, Barbel, Chub and Tench, and lots of Roach, Ide and Perch. An all-in match last September was won with three decent Barbel on worm. You normally drive into the field and go through a gate into the adjacent field parking near to the hedgerow, not today. After a week of rain we had to drag our gear through three fields to get to the pool. Carl had a mixed day. First he gets his van stuck in the mud near to the access and has to walk through three fields to get to the pool, then he falls in to the pool but he went on to win the match. Weather was dry and mild. Going in to this penultimate match we have DD, FB and DJ all on five points. Result - CF 3-15-0, DD 3-13-0, PF 2-10-0, some nice Chub caught. After four matches omitting one worst result, DD is on 7, CF on 8 and FB on 11 points.

(5)25/3/2017; The final match of the SFL series was at Pool House Farm, another private pool new to Girling AS. The Pool closes for the winter and had re-opened three weeks earlier. Again a well kept pool full of features with all species but best known for it's big Tench, there are small Barbel in the margins and in practice we found a lot to go for up in the water with Roach and Ide on Maggot but lots of Carp. We only had half the pool (pegs 4-15) and some of the pegs were a bit tight. Weather was mild, 11 turned out. Result;- DD won with 11-9-0, DJ was second with 11-6-0 and CF third with 10-6-0. Everyone had mainly Ide running to 12oz although the winner found a bonus 3lb Bream. FB started like a train but the Carp moved in.

Overall result, after five matches omitting one worst result

Darren Davies took the series with top four finishes throughout the series. Carl Forty chased him all the way. Well done Darren.

Conclusion - An interesting series with three pools we hadn't match fished before. The series made the anglers think a bit rather than using the same pool throughout the series. The first two matches in January were very hard. Alderhanger Lane Pool is probable a Spring League venue but we saved the best till last and Pool House Farm turned out to be an excellent Silver Fish Venue.