

## River Ivel Biggleswade Common 24/12/08

Keith Speer

For once I had done all my Xmas shopping before Christmas Eve so I was at a bit of a loose end!

Like a good boy, after I had been round the pits with the boys I helped Der Reichfurer make the beds, she then stated that she was out of fags, I offered to get some if I could have an afternoon at Marford!

I was almost struck dumb when the words "OK if you like" came from her mouth.....

...RESULT!!!!!!

I still had a few Casters left from my trip to The Kennet on Sunday and my reserve 3 pints of Maggots were in fine fettle in the bait fridge so after a quick trip to the local newsagents I was filling a flask and ready for the off-ski.

As I was not so pushed for time I decided to try somewhere a bit different, Glenn one of our Moor Mill regulars regularly fishes The Ivel and he does well there, in particular he fishes Biggleswade Common so I decided to give it a go, back in my match angling days I used to fish The Ivel a lot so it would be like meeting up with an old friend!

I arrived in the car park by Meccano Bridge (I know it's a new one but to me it will always be Meccano Bridge) at 1-00pm and I elected to walk past Dick Walkers house and fish the second bend as it was there that I last fished The Ivel.

Well the Common is no less muddy than I remember and the banks are awkward but eventually I settled in to my swim.



The river still had a bit of colour but it was obviously fining down, by the looks of it today was probably going to see the last of the colour until we get a bit more rain, so I had got there just in time, there was a good push on the water although I suspect it was at normal winter level.

As usual I was going to fish the float with my favoured centre pin, I elected to use a MAP 8 x No4 Wire stemmed stick, I would normally use a dumpier float like a Topper in water of this speed but the swim was only about 3ft 6ins deep and the wire stem would add stability as I held the rig back against the pin, but I was not going to hold back too hard as I wanted to trot the float right under the far bank and I guessed (rightly) that a wire stem would help give me the control I needed.

Added to that a string of No 6 shot with a 8 as tell tail and I was ready for the off.

I would have to be careful not to tangle the shot when I cast but I was happy to take that risk to gain the control I wanted.

As I was wading I could not sit and contemplate the river as I would normally do, even so a ten minute study with a cup of tea from the flask showed me that the current was steady but there was a distinct crease where the water slowed

slightly, this is where most of my Casters would end up, therefore so would Mr Rubber Dub.

A dozen trots down with no feed produced no bites so it was off with 6 Casters and the same of Hemp for a start once before the cast and once again when the float was half way down the swim.

Second trot with a bit of feed and the float buried from this greedy Chub.



Three more trots through and the float buried again this time it was a proper Chub which tried hard to take me under the far bank, eventually having done all the hard work the bloody hook pulled out and a Chub of about 4lb slowly swam downstream and away ...Bugger!!!!

I fished for another half an hour slowly introducing a bit more bait but with no bites and I was even thinking of having a move (something I hate doing once I am settled) when I had another less convincing bite which produced a plump 3 pound fish.



This Chub was gobbing out Caster and Hemp like mad.....I had really knaused this swim up.... I was feeding far too much bait (neither the Hemp could be re-frozen or the Caster last until after Christmas, I had loads of bait and like a fool I had been lavish with it) the swim had not gone quiet because I had spooked it by losing a Chub, it had gone quiet because I mis-read the signs and had been over feeding.....What a PILLOCK!!

So loose feed was cut right down and after about a dozen trots the float buried much more convincingly whis resulted in a Chub of about 4lb.

From then on I was into Chub fairly consistently so I started to try and take some action and timed shots with my camera.





Which was a waste of time as you can see.

I ended the day with ten Chub ranging from about 2lb to 5lb 1oz with two others of over four pounds and several 3's



I was pleased with this one at 5lb 1oz, Mission accomplished.

Even so I was annoyed at my own stupidity at making the mistake of over feeding, if I had not bugged that up who knows what might have happened, there are Chub of over 7lb in The Ivel.

You have never wasted a day if you have learned something; today I learned that if you ask a reasonable question at a reasonable time you get a reasonable answer - and get a bonus days fishing.

And, take some notice of your own good advice - DON'T OVER FEED; you can always put it in but YOU CAN'T TAKE IT OUT.

Merry Christmas and Tight Lines for the New Year.