

# Tales from the riverbank

YOUR No.1 *Angler's Mail* brings you a warts 'n' all tale every week, from a different top angler.



**THIS WEEK'S STORYTELLER IS:**

**JAMIE HUGHES**

*Maver Bag'em Baits-sponsored  
reigning Angler's Mail Kamasan  
Matchman of the Year.*

## MAKING A SPLASH AND A SEAGULL SCAM

**T**HERE are three stories that spring to mind when I think of amusing things that have happened when I've been fishing. One of the funniest things I've seen on the bank happened last summer at Heronbrook during a match, when I was pegged opposite one of my friends, Fisherman's Tackle angler Phil Ashdown, on Canal Lake.

He managed to hook the end of his keepnet, and while he was trying to get it free, the front legs of the platform attached to his box slipped off the front of the peg.

He was thrown forwards and almost dived head first into his keepnet. Everyone saw the splash and could see him lying in lake.

His box stayed on the bank, but it was sloping at such a steep angle that all the drawers slid open and fell in one by one behind him. They were full of plummets, shot and disgorgers, which fell in and sank.

Luckily it was a warm day and he was able to stay in long enough to scoop around and get most of his stuff back.

Fair play to him, he carried on fishing. He took off his wet clothes, chucked them on the bank behind him and sat there all day in just his pants, though funnily enough he didn't catch much after that.

Just recently I was fishing after work with a mate, James, and some friends at Moreton Brickworks, a quarry just down the road from where I live.

As he was putting his pole away while we were packing up he held the

tube the wrong way round and four sections slid out and went into the quarry, which must be 30 ft deep.

It was a Daiwa Spectron and the sections would have cost him about £600 to replace, so he decided to go in after them.

It was April and the water was still really cold, especially with it being so deep. He started by walking in while holding his landing net with me holding the other end, but he was soon out of his depth and in the end he just went under and was in properly.

He had to dive down to find them, and while he had his head under the water and just his feet sticking out we filmed him with a video camera trying to get his sections back.

It took him about half an hour, and it was about 8.30pm and close to getting dark by the end, but he got them all out.

When he came out he had turned a bit blue, so he quickly changed into my fishing clothes and went straight home and straight to bed.

We were fishing together the next day and he was fine, and later I showed him the video of his efforts and he seemed quite impressed.

The third incident was a couple of years ago on a trip to White Acres. When I go there it is normally with a group of mates, and if there are six of us we book two caravans next to each other.

One of my friends told me about a trick you can play involving the seagulls down there. They are not your normal sized gulls, but really big



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and noisy herring gulls, and when they land on the roof of your caravan it makes a lot of racket.

When we had been out for the night in Newquay and had had a few pints, the three of us staying in one caravan decided we would chuck a load of chips on the other lads' roof.

At about four in the morning they were woken up by 50 great big herring gulls all over the roof pecking and scratching with their claws. They said it sounded like the roof was going

to come in. They weren't impressed because no one had had any sleep, having been up until late anyway.

They didn't know it was anything to do with us at first, until we started laughing.

They got us back the next night, and from then on we took it in turns to get each other. There was some pile of food that ended up on those roofs.

I think by the end of the week we must have had every seagull in Newquay on the tops of our caravans!

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