

THIS WEEK

JONATHAN WATT

RED BAIT AND THE FREE ANGLER'S MAIL RED MEGA LINE HELPS FOOL SOME CAGEY BREEM.



Find feeder success on free red line and red bait

WHEN it came to asking an angler to test out the free spool of Angler's Mail 6 lb Red Magic Mega Line with this week's issue, there was only ever going to be one winner – Jonathan Watt. His love for the colour red has helped him to win many a match and break numerous venue records as well as landing some oversized fish.

Jonathan, 44, from Lewes, East Sussex is sponsored by Hardy Greys as well as Bag 'em Matchbaits and holds the record for the biggest pole caught fish during an NFA match, a 33 lb catfish! The colour red has given him the edge on many occasions including the five-hour match record at Framfield Fishery, East Sussex where he landed 397 lb as well as taking another record on Bonds Lake with 198 lb on the Old Bury Hill complex in Surrey.

Whatever species he's after, be it roach on a river or bream on a lake, he feels the colour red just can't be beaten. We sent him to Snipe Lake on the Beaver Farm complex, a venue he'd only fished once before to target the bream. He fished a method that's often overlooked these days, the groundbait cage feeder.

■ Did YOU get free Weed Green line, and not free Red Magic? Hurry to a newsagent and you might find Red Magic still there. Buy another issue and you can compare results!

Angler's Mail RATING:

Judging by Jonathan Watt's kit the bream had better be on red alert!



The early morning start has been delayed due to a heavy downpour and unfortunately carp anglers tie up the preferred open water. First job is to dampen down the groundbait that Jonathan mixed the night before; remove any unwanted lumps by passing through a sieve, then add small pellets. Groundbait today is 'Krill Seeker' made by Bag 'em, part of their Pro-Competition range. Jonathan said: 'I dampen this down using water from the lake to which I've added lots of red dye and strawberry flavour. A few Bag 'em micro and 4 mm pellets complete the mix, resulting in a light and fluffy texture.'



← JONATHAN WATT knows bream love red, even on a hard day.

I've made seven quick casts, leaving the feeder in the swim a couple of minutes at a time. The dry consistency of my groundbait releases quickly from the feeder and as I'm clipped up I know that there's a nice accurate area of feed in front of me. There's some fizzing in my swim and on the seventh cast the 1 oz quiver on my Greys G-Tec 12 ft feeder rod drops back alerting me to a bite. I've been alternating bait every cast and this modest 5 lb bream took a liking to a single grain of red corn.



Another bream fell straight after the first, but the swim has died now. Trying a new line even failed to produce, so it's back to Jonathan's original area. Hair-rigging a traffic light (one red, one yellow piece of corn), Jon clips up and drops the feeder directly on the original feed. He lifts the rod to make another cast and the rod's almost ripped from his grasp as a carp crashes through the pads and round the back of the island. After a few anxious moments he steers the carp into open water only to see the rod spring back due to the hook link parting. 'I'm gutted!' he gasps.

The swim started to fizz again, probably due to the light levels dropping from the building clouds. All day Jonathan's been alternating hook bait and hook link length knowing slight changes can make all the difference. Jonathan's even gone to the trouble of toning down the metal feeder by blacking it out with a permanent marker pen along with pinning everything down behind the feeder with some Korda rig sleeving. Using a Korum Quickstop needle he quickly secures two 6 mm Bag 'em Aggressor pellets to the hair in the hope of a bite.



'I'm not too sure what change has made the difference but a quick tremor followed by a drop back indicates a bite,' says Jonathan. But contact isn't made and he curses a valuable missed chance and questions whether it was a liner. He wonders if it may have upset the swim but is reassured as next cast the tip falls back and at long last another bream is steered into the waiting net.



Another quiet spell follows, and Jonathan once again swaps baits from doubles and singles of both pellets and corn, even trying a 10 mm boilie wrapped in paste.

TOP TIPS

● There are many ways of securing your bait onto a hair but by far the quickest and easiest is by using a Korum Quickstop. 'I make my own hook links up and simply tie the Quickstop onto the end of my hair. The Quickstop is pressed onto the needle, which then pushes through the bait, and when it's pulled out the Quickstop anchors the bait,' said Jonathan.



● On a new water it's best to feel your way into the swim by casting regularly. Clip the line in the reel clip and cast up to a dozen times at the start leaving the feeder out for just a couple of minutes. Keep your groundbait on the dry side as this will release quickly from the feeder. Add a handful of micro and 4 mm pellets to your groundbait as this will keep the bream rooting around for longer in your swim but don't overdo it as you want your hook bait to be noticed first.



● Organisation brings with it speed. Jonathan said: 'Every second counts in a match so to maximise my time spent with a bait in the water I make up loads of different variations of hook links and keep them protected within their own storage box. Next to each hook link I've marked its length, diameter, breaking strain and hook size. Making a few longer links can be advantageous as these can be quickly reduced in length if needed.'



● Correctly mixed groundbait is vitally important if you want to get the best out of a swim. Always mix your groundbait the night before, as this will allow all the particles to absorb the moisture. If possible use rainwater as tap water contains chemicals. Add flavouring and dye to the water and moisten the next day using water from the lake. Sieve any lumps out and add small pellets, as they will keep the bream rooting around for longer. You should be able to squeeze the final mix easily into a fluffy light parcel in one hand.

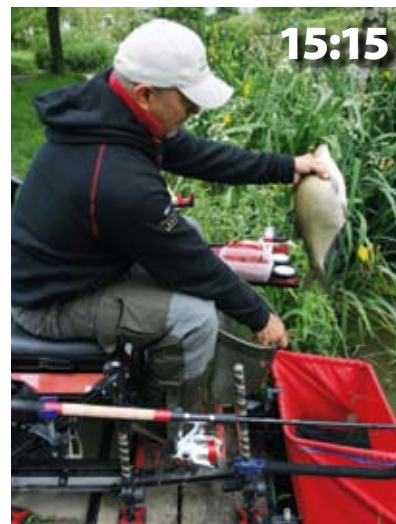


● Keeping a selection of feeders to hand is important, as sometimes you need to change to a larger one to hold the fish in your swim or, on a day like today, scale down on the size to try and buy a bite. Over flavoured hook baits, ones that have been glugged or sprayed will often bring a bite on a difficult day. Also making your hook bait stand out on top of your groundbait will often bring an instant response.



● Jonathan used a 12 ft Greys G-Tec Feeder Rod coupled with a Shimano Stradic 4000FB reel loaded with *Angler's Mail* 6 lb Red Magic Mega Line. Terminal tackle comprised of Korda rig sleeving and a shockleader sleeve plus a Browning 30 gr cage feeder attached to a Quick Change Swivel. This was followed by a Korum Quick Change Bead, Preston 0.17 mm Powerline hook length and Drennan size 16 Carp Feeder barbless hook and a Quickstop.

The light levels have dropped and rain is once again in the air. Two pieces of red corn is the next alternative to raise a response, once again from a bream and Jonathan's confident of another before the rain sets in. 'Organisation is the key to keeping my bait in the water for as long as possible and tiny changes will bring rewards. I've been ringing the changes all day and my last bream falls to a glugged red and yellow corn cocktail,' smiled Jonathan.



THE END RESULT

Days when you have to work at it are often the ones you remember, and this was one such day. Jonathan concludes: 'Snipe isn't an easy daytime water, coming to life at night and being away from the preferred open water areas didn't help. A lot of other anglers on the water struggled.'

'The free red line proved its worth as the hook link that broke whilst playing the carp had a slightly higher breaking strain. Five good bream during the worst time of the day was a fair result, however it was obvious that the swim was coming to life as I left.'



TICKET information

Beaver Farm is in Eastbourne Road, Newchapel, Lingfield, Surrey, RH7 6HL. It's a day ticket coarse fishery consisting of nine lakes, catering for the serious carp angler to the pleasure angler that's simply looking to catch a variety of species in beautiful surroundings. Day tickets, 7am to 7pm, are £10. Visit www.beaverfarmfishery.co.uk or call the fishery officer on 01342 324006 for concessionary, multiple rod, overnight and 24-hour prices.