

EastEnders cover star finds carp heaven

YOUR FREE GIFT

Loop tyer and disgorger – we show you how the 2-in-1 gadget works! See p.10/11.



BAILEY'S PERFECT TENCH FISHING

It's a May morning, they're bubbling, but how to catch 'em? Our new signing John Bailey explains in p.22/23.



WHERE TO FISH THIS WEEKEND

The best guide, bar none – in the *Mail* every Tuesday! Read where our experts recommend in p.49-59.

OUT OF THIS WORLD! Gran Canaria was just that for TV star Scott Maslen (left) and pal Simon Bater, who held the carp record when he caught British best Two Tone at 65 lb 14 oz.



EASTENDERS TV star and the fella on our cover, Scott Maslen, is as mad keen on his carp fishing as they come and he reckons he's found the best place in the world to fish for them!

Scott spent a memorable week with former British record holder Simon Bater in Gran Canaria with Canary Island Carp Fishing Tours. He sought it out for something different to normal carping, needing a break with sun, peace and quality fishing... high up in the mountains at 150-acre Lake Chira.

Former tackle shop bait boy Scott - now backed by Nash Tackle - and Solar-sponsored Simon got off

to a scorching start with the actor's first fish being a new PB of 35 lb. Action was hectic all week as the pair continually repositioned their rods at ranges of up to 150 metres by boat, often going without sleep at night.

They notched 41 fish including fifteen 30s, a 41-pounder and the rest 19-29 lb, all over beds of particles prepared by organiser Dave Beecham to give maximum leakage of the natural oils and flavours.

Scott, 39, who plays Jack Branning in the BBC1 soap, raved: 'It's the best fishing holiday I've ever had and we will definitely be coming back!'

Holiday latest: www.carpgrancanaria.com

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EDITOR'S Welcome



WELCOME to another bumper issue, with 88 exciting pages, an exclusive free gadget and a bonus tackle brochure from top dealer, Chapmans.

Aside from stonking fish and super stories, we bring you a tench fisher's honest opinion and helpful pointers. John Bailey, in the second of his new exclusive series (p.22/23), will make you think about tactics to turn around a morning on the bank. Dave Coster has some wise words on springtime feeding approaches (p.34/36). And in case you're wondering what the free gift is all about, p.10/11 plus online videos explain all.

"Aside from stonking fish and super stories, we bring you a tench fisher's rake full of honest opinion and helpful pointers."

RIVERS feel like they might as well be in another country, with over a month until glorious June 16 and the new season. But we shine the spotlight on England's longest river, the Thames, on p.8.

At the flick of switch, the Environment Agency has given a green light to extensive "green" hydropower projects throughout the river. Crazy!

Weirpools are vital to the habitat and diversity of heavily impounded lowland rivers such as the Thames. They are the only features offering suitable spawning opportunities - clean gravel shallows - for flow-dependent fish such as barbel, dace and chub, among many other species.

Reducing the flow for much of the year will surely substantially affect this habitat. This view

has been substantiated by a recent independent expert report that the Angling Trust's legal arm recently commissioned to examine the impact of a scheme on the Trent.

So why go full steam ahead on the Thames? Thames legend and *Mail* ace Bill Rushmer also cannot believe the EA are doing this before assessing the environmental damage. As he rightly pointed out: 'The Thames hardly flows anyway in the summer, we don't need flows being disrupted anymore.'

Time for a re-think, EA?

Tim Knight EDITOR

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Make Tuesday your Angler's Mail Day. Next week: our experts' top secrets