

Stealthy Barbel Fishing

The lack of rain this summer has led to incredibly low water levels on the gin clear souther chalk streams I fish. Until today the Barbel had proved elusive with just a few fish sighted and none hooked. After an hour of searching the river this morning I finally got a glimpse of a tail and a flash of silver deep under some weed cover. A gravel run 2ft wide and 6ft long between copious amounts of streamer weed was the target area. One cast is all you get in conditions like this, one is enough to get the barbel on edge, two casts and you might as well move swim such is their caution. Today the under arm cast landed just right. The rig consisted of the Korum run rig with a 3oz gripper lead, being so low the river was moving fast, a lighter lead would easily be moved. For hooklinks in this gin clear water iv used 9 inches of the excellent Snapper Fluorocarbon in 10lb to a size 12 Korum xpert specimen hook with a short hair and Sonubaits 14mm Spicy Sausage pellet. For feed iv fed half a tin of Sonubaits spicy sausage hemp and spread this several meters upstream with it settling in front of me along the gravel run. Half hour passed before the attraction of the oily hemp proved too much for a barbel as it drifted in and out of the weed across the gravel. Whack, over the tip went and it's game on. First fish on the Korum Twin tip with the 1.5tc Avon top. What a delight to play a fish on that rod is. After a few powerful runs iv scooped her up, not the biggest barbel in the river at 8lb but one i feel iv really fished for. In for a penny in for a pound so iv fed the other half of the tin of hemp and stayed longer. Sure enough an hour passed and another barbel showed and again started to drift over the gravel. It wasn't long before she was in the net, a bit smaller at 7lb but a pleasure to catch none the less. A great few hours fishing a rich reward for hard work.