

# GETTING IT RIGHT...

**Pole Fishing** joins Frenzee South West and friends as they work out the best way to crack Wales' Cefn Mably Lakes.

One of the most difficult, but at the same time important, decisions that we are faced with as anglers is which method to fish on a given day. Get it right and a good session can be almost guaranteed but get it wrong and you can be up against it before you even start fishing.

Fourteen men who know this all too well are the Frenzee-backed team. Twelve of them are members of the up-and-coming Frenzee South West outfit, headed up

by Welsh international, Andy Neal. The other two need little introduction, being Frenzee star anglers Jon Whincup and Andy Oldham.

With each of the anglers attacking their pegs very differently, it was going to be interesting to see who got it right from the start, and of the anglers who struggled early in the day, which managed to reverse their fortunes and finish with a respectable weight. >>>



A motley crew but whose tactics would prove successful on the day?



Welsh legend Rob Jones does battle with an early carp.



**PEG 42**  
**STEVE AYRES**  
 Age: 36  
 Nickname: Big Boy  
 Angling idol: Dog Hornblow  
 Biggest win: Gold match, White Acres  
 Plan: Pellet to island, caster shallow, groundbait and maggot down the edge

**PEG 43**  
**LUKE SOROKIN**  
 Age: 30  
 Nickname: Buzzard Boy  
 Angling idol: Ian Heaps  
 Biggest win: All-winners silver-fish match at Viaduct  
 Plan: Long pole with chopped worm on the bottom and shallow, groundbait and maggot down the edge

**PEG 45**  
**ANDREW CROCKER**  
 Age: 32  
 Nickname: Tuna  
 Angling idol: Sean Ashby  
 Biggest win: Back-to-back top-10 finishes in White Acres festivals  
 Plan: Meat short, pellet waggler, groundbait and worm down the edge

**PEG 47**  
**IAN EXALL**  
 Age: 42  
 Nickname: Eggy  
 Angling idol: Steve Ringer  
 Biggest win: Individual winner, Maver Pairs qualifier  
 Plan: Meat short, pellet shallow on a flick rig to the island, groundbait and maggot down the edge

**PEG 48**  
**RICHARD AHERNE**  
 Age: 40  
 Nickname: Large Piece  
 Angling idol: Lee Edwards  
 Biggest win: Fish 'O' Mania qualifier at Moorlands Farm in 2011  
 Plan: Meat short, meat to the island, groundbait and maggot down the edge

**PEG 52**  
**ANDREW MANN**  
 Age: 24  
 Nickname: Donk  
 Angling idol: Matt Godfrey  
 Biggest win: Senior Welsh National individually, 2009  
 Plan: Pole-fished pellet to the island, groundbait and maggot down the edge

**PEG 54**  
**MARK GOODALL**  
 Age: 43  
 Nickname: Goody  
 Angling idol: Ian Heaps  
 Biggest win: Welsh National Championship  
 Plan: Banded pellet on the pole fished to the island, groundbait and maggot down the edge

**PEG 57**  
**JASON THOMAS**  
 Age: 29  
 Nickname: Marge  
 Angling idol: Rob Jones  
 Biggest win: Welsh National Championship with the team  
 Plan: Short pole with paste, pellet waggler, shallow with pellets

**PEG 58**  
**ANDY OLDHAM**  
 Age: 49  
 Nickname: Big Mitts  
 Angling idol: Alan Scotthorne  
 Biggest win: Representing England, or winning UK Championship individually  
 Plan: Shallow with pellets, meat short, groundbait down the edge

**PEG 59**  
**GLYN REYNOLDS**  
 Age: 55  
 Nickname: Baby Pooh  
 Angling idol: Des Shipp  
 Biggest win: 2012 Maver Pairs champion with Bob Giles  
 Plan: Short pole with pellet/paste, Method feeder, margins with dead maggot and groundbait

**PEG 61**  
**ADAM MITCHELL**  
 Age: 29  
 Nickname: B\*\*\*h Tits  
 Angling idol: Glyn Reynolds  
 Biggest win: Team victory in Welsh National Championship  
 Plan: Long pole on the bottom with pellets, meat and hemp short, caster down the edge

**PEG 63**  
**JON WHINCUP**  
 Age: 39  
 Nickname: Whiny  
 Angling idol: Kim Milsom  
 Biggest win: Ireland's Arva Festival  
 Plan: Short pole with meat, long pole on the bottom with pellets, shallow with pellets

**PEG 66**  
**ROB JONES**  
 Age: 46  
 Nickname: Silver Fox  
 Angling idol: Kevin Ashurst  
 Biggest win: Two internationals fishing for Wales  
 Plan: Meat and hemp short, long pole shallow, groundbait and maggot down the edge

**PEG 68**  
**ANDY NEAL**  
 Age: 34  
 Nickname: Bodge  
 Angling idol: Tom Scholey  
 Biggest win: Sixth individual, European Championship  
 Plan: Meat and hemp short and long, groundbait and maggot down the edge



A late lump for Andy Oldham, but would it be big enough to give him the lead?

**ALL IN!**  
 It was a slow start for most competitors, with Jon Whincup setting an early pace with a couple of fish shallow and Mark Goodhall also latching into a couple of good fish fishing long pole up to the island. As the end of the first hour approached, many people had already changed from their opening gambit to the second phase of their planned attack.

**Many anglers began feeding their margin swims more regularly and catching the odd fish.**

One such man was Andy Oldham, who had moved from fishing short pole with meat to pellet shallow on the long pole. A run of fish, including some pushing double figures, moved him right up the table and we predicted him to be leading as the end of the second hour approached. Mark Goodall was also continuing to catch well, although his line to the island was starting to slow up and, worryingly, he didn't seem able to catch anywhere else in his peg. While at the beginning of the match the fish seemed to be showing everywhere, as the day progressed it appeared that more and more fish were moving around the

top end of the lake (Pegs 47 to 58), while the pegs closest to the car park (59 to 68) looked a lot slower.

**THE BIG CHANGE**  
 Of the methods that our anglers opted to fish, by far the most common was groundbait and maggots down the edge. This has been a real cult commercial-fishery tactic over the last few years and, judging by the number of anglers who opted to fish it, it was obviously at the forefront of many people's game plan. As the middle of the match approached, many anglers began feeding their margin swims more regularly and catching the

odd fish. The tactic appeared to be working especially well for Andrew Mann and Richard Aherne on Pegs 52 and 48 respectively. Frustratingly for Andrew, though, he seemed to be losing a few fish, while Richard was managing to net most of his. Down the other end of the lake, action was slow, with Andy Neal, Rob Jones and Jon Whincup having to content themselves with just nicking an odd fish shallow. Action had also slowed for early leader Andy Oldham, and although he was still catching the occasional fish, he could sense his lead slipping away. As the end approached, a few more

**THE WINNER'S SLOPPY SECRETS!**

**A**  
 Red maggots fished over Bait-Tech Krill groundbait did the damage.

**B**  
 A thick-bristled float and robust line was the order of the day.

**C**  
 Every put-in, he fed a pinch of red maggots...

**D**  
 ... then topped his pot up with groundbait.

began to catch the odd fish down the side but it was still apparent that there were more towards the top end, with Richard Aherne continuing to put the occasional fish in the net. With Andy Oldham managing another big late lump shallow, though, this was going to be a close one. >>>

**Kult CARP MIX SWEET FISHMEAL**

A new phenomenon in groundbait and one that's taking the country by storm! All the power of the famous GPS90 with a strong molasses sweet edge and a touch of secret herbs!

Designed on commercials, this award-winning groundbait is a magnet to carp and FIs, with an added bonus of being a fabulous skimmer mix. A proven winner by the Bait-Tech team – no matter what the situation, this mix will do the lot!

This Sweet Fishmeal groundbait contains the double edge of GPS90 grade fishmeal plus a molasses sweetener and a secret sweet herb that

carp love. Made for the Method, cupping or stick mix and very easy to mix, this makes it an ideal bait for lakes and commercial waters.

- Easy-mix formula
- Designed to catch loads of fish
- Rich, high food content
- Fantastic for all species
- Use on all waters
- Method feeder & cage feeder
- Feed loose & balled in
- Multi-use

Kult Sweet Fishmeal comes in 2kg bags.

"This is so easy to mix and use. It's caught me many, many fish in so many situations, this is the ultimate 'go to' groundbait for me!" Lee Addy

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**CONCLUSIONS?**

Analysing results is always a tricky business because, all too often, people who aren't doing so well take gambles by fishing risky methods that have the potential to yield big weights in the late part of the session, such as feeding heavily on a short-pole line or down the margins. The two weights that stand out on the board are those of the winner, Richard Aherne, and particularly second-placed Andy Oldham.

Andy finished second from what looks on paper to be a relatively poor area. This was largely down to the fact that he read his peg quicker than those around him. Before the first hour ended, he worked out that fishing shallow with pellets was going to prove his best bet for putting together a money-winning catch. Once this was established, he didn't come off the line for the rest of the

**Result:**

Peg	Angler	Weight	Place
Peg 42	Steve Ayres	42-8-0	6
Peg 43	Luke Sorokin	43-8-0	5
Peg 45	Andrew Crocker	25-12-0	13
Peg 47	Ian Exall	52-8-0	3
Peg 48	Richard Aherne	61-8-0	1
Peg 52	Andrew Mann	44-0-0	4
Peg 54	Mark Goodall	37-8-0	9
Peg 57	James Thomas	32-0-0	11
Peg 58	Andy Oldham	59-0-0	2
Peg 59	Glyn Reynolds	12-8-0	14
Peg 61	Adam Mitchell	29-0-0	12
Peg 63	John Whincup	38-4-0	8
Peg 66	Rob Jones	34-0-0	10
Peg 68	Andy Neal	40-0-0	7

day. He just kept nicking the odd fish, while those around him swapped and changed, looking for a way to catch up.

There can only be one winner, though, and that was former Fish 'O' Mania finalist Richard Aherne. After a difficult start, he knew that his best chance of getting out of jail would be to catch down the edge.

Interestingly, though, he didn't feed his margins really aggressively, like some anglers did. Instead, he chose to feel his way in, feeding sparing amounts of Bait-Tech Krill groundbait, via a Soft Pot, and fishing three red maggots on the hook.

He explained: "I tried to catch on meat but it soon became apparent that this wasn't the right bait because I was waiting too long for bites and getting liners but no positive indications. When I changed to fishing maggots on the hook, and feeding small quantities of groundbait, indications were far more positive, however. Although I never really bagged up, I was able to keep the odd fish coming to the net, which on a tough day like this can be worth its weight in gold." ■

Groundbait and maggots did the damage for eventual winner, Richard Aherne.



Close, but no cigar. Andy Odham needed just one more fish for victory.



Horses for courses. Two very different tactics from two very different pegs saw Andy and Richard secure the money places.

