

# TACKLE NEWS



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**EXCLUSIVE NEW GEAR REVIEWS BY MARK SAWYER**



## MAVER'S REALITY SHOWS ITS METTLE

13ft float rod designed for silvers, copes with carp

**N**OT so long ago a three-piece 13ft float rod would be standard issue for all match and pleasure anglers, and I'll tell you why.

The industrial cities of Sheffield, Leeds, Rotherham and Birmingham gave rise to legions of angling aficionados (pardon the pun), many of whom worked in the nationalised coal and steel industries.

These had massive working men's associations with affiliated angling clubs.

Every weekend would see coachloads of fishermen arriving on the banks of the Witham, Welland, Trent, Severn and Thames, where floatfishing with 13ft rods ruled the roost.

Those were the days, when fishing was basically the only recreation for many a working class bloke.

Tackle was functional first and foremost. Wicker creels, rods in canvas bags, Intrepid reels, Au Lion D'Or hooks, a handful of handmade floats - oh, and an Efgeeco baitbox containing a pint of 'gentles' in sawdust - was about par for the course.

The best float rods of the day were built mainly on fibreglass Golden Jubilee blanks, and appeared under the WB Clarke All-England, Milbro Enterprise and Billy Lane Match brands. The first carbon rods weren't far away, though, although when Fothergill and Harvey launched them in 1975

they cost a king's ransom at £133. Bearing in mind that back then a Mars bar cost sixpence (2.5p) and you get an idea just how expensive this rod was.

Thankfully, modern 13ft float rods are vastly cheaper in relative terms, as well as being better built, better balanced, lighter in the hand and an altogether superior product.

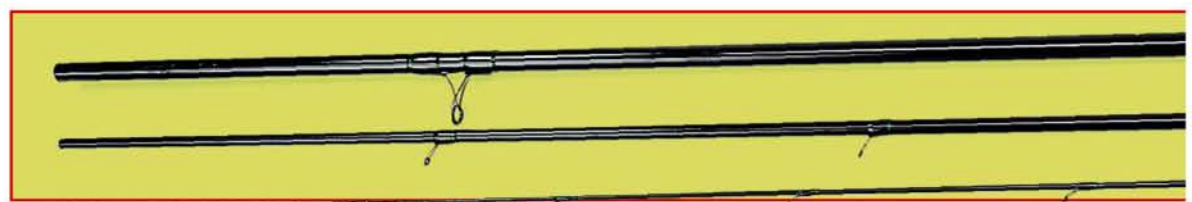
Enter Maver's 13ft three-piece Reality, which can be found for as little as £49.99. It's also available in 12ft and 14ft versions, and all three decent enough lightweight blanks with their medium-fast action will

cast wagglers up to 25g.

Key features include a full cork handle with EVA lock-down foregrip, quality lined guides, folding keeper ring, and a classy jet-black glossy coating.

It's not the crispest float rod I have ever come across, and it may lack a bit of finesse. But it can cope with whatever comes its way, as I discovered on the live test at Stretton Lakes' day-ticket Silvers Pool, just off the A1 north of Peterborough.

I was hoping for roach with hopefully the odd better skimmer thrown in. Feeding groundbait





## Maver Enigma 300 reel

THE ideal companion for any Maver Reality rod, the latest Enigma 300 reel turns in an amazing performance for a model at such a modest price.

Ideal for float and feeder work, it runs silky-smooth on nine bearings.

Top-end technical features include a double soft dampening line clip system, which prevents snap-offs should you hit

the clip a little too enthusiastically.

A computer-balanced rotor, titanium-plated line roller, excellent line lay and ambidextrous handle give added reel appeal to this pleasing product.

Price: £79.99



## MAVER REALITY RODS AT A GLANCE

MAVER'S latest Reality series, replacing the best-selling Abyss X range, offers a full spectrum of float and feeder rods at very competitive prices. Designed by the Maver team for UK commercial and natural fishery use, the entry-level models are built on lightweight carbon graphite blanks and come with full cork and EVA twist grip handles, dependable graphite reel seats, folding keeper ring, and quality lined guides throughout.

Price: £36.99-£49.99



laced with a few micro pellets and casters, my basic set-up saw a 3AAA straight peacock waggler attached to 3lb reel line, 0.12mm hooklength, and a size 18 hook with a double maggot as bait, fished overdepth.

Small roach and rudd gave me a bite a chuck, but these skerrets hardly tested the rod's prowess. Bites then dried up, and I wondered if this was a prelude to the skimmers clocking in.

I didn't have to wait long to find out. The float's blaze top vanished and my strike was met with far more resistance than any skimmer

could muster. The rod took on its full fighting curve in an action best described as on the stern side of progressive - pretty much what you need from a float rod if you're likely to encounter bigger fish.

Eventually my balanced tackle got the better of a decent-sized carp, and what a handsome fish it was - bristling with indignation, it had clearly never been caught before.

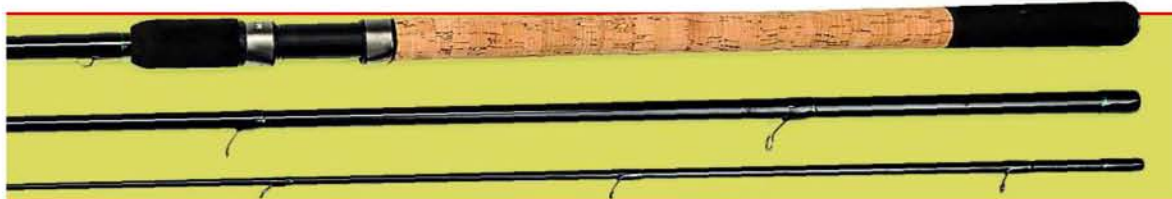
The Reality Match had done its job, absorbing the carp's every lunge without cause for concern. Yes, of course this rod was made to tackle silvers on rivers and

stillwaters, but when it's called to battle stations you'll be glad to have it your side.

Price: £48.99



This surprise carp tested the new Maver rod to the full.



## MARK'S VERDICT

WHAT'S not to like about this rod? It's very well priced, easy to use, feels reassuringly sturdy, and is ideal for all float work, trotting or static. As proved during the live test it also has a touch of steel about it, which means it will handle big fish with little hassle.