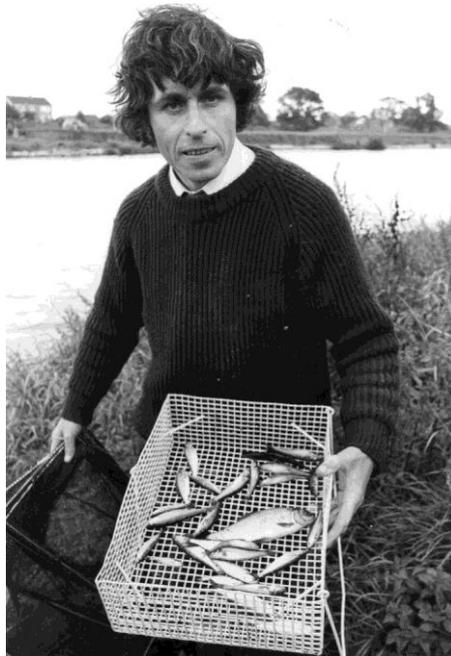


Ray Mumford, one of angling's most famous names has died after a long period of poor health. Ray was living in a care home near Leicester when he passed away aged 77 his demise in health was due to a mugging at his home 11 years ago. Unfortunately and somewhat sadly Ray Mumford the legend could not remember who he was in his later years and all that he brought to the Modern Fishing era.



My Tribute to Ray

There was only one Ray Mumford, an extraordinary man with vision and whose pioneering and individualism made him years ahead within the Match fishing Circuit. Frowned upon by other anglers for his outspoken and outlandish approach he was one of the first breed in traveling anglers. I first met Ray in a home international at Roach Park Lake Cardiff when as a young man looking up to a mentor figure I found Ray to have knowledge far above most others. In fact I would say he was boarding on Genius or madness. He would tell us how the moon affected the fish and this became very apparent when in the late evening when he accompanied the Welsh Fishing Team abroad you could hear him howling in the night sky on a full moon just like a werewolf. Whoooo keeping us awake. Saying it was going to be hard the next day, of course he was right as the fishing was hard. He was a true gentleman always smart dressed with his tradition shirt and tie. On one occasion we where both fishing on the River Arno Italy accompanied my wife and Ray's wife Maureen, when

out of the blue an Italian man exposed himself from the bushes and guess what? It was Ray that chased after him leaving me still fishing. (Maureen of Irish decent would accompany Ray to most matches and I believe she was a good angler too)



He was great company to be with and there was always something happening in his presence, for example at the Airport we were almost arrested when the porter tried to con him out of a few thousand Lire (About 25p in our money) there was uproar with the police arriving and yet it was hilarious afterwards.

Ray's ambition was to Fish for England in the World Championships yet he was overlooked on many occasions even though he was the pioneer in Pole fishing in the UK. Introducing Pole crooks, external elastic, blood worm hooks, metal tipped pole floats, leam based groundbait, Continental Fishing boxes. The biggest mistake he made was upsetting the wrong people at the wrong time including the NFA, Stan Smith and Dick Clegg the English managers. He was incredibly confident in his own ability, and would think nothing of turning up on an England Trial – despite not being invited, and sitting on the end of the line up, just because he thought that he should be there!

Although Ray reckoned he was born in Wales, The Welsh team still took him on as a favorite son, he helped them with methods and techniques hence achieving some great results later on. The Ray Mumford Catapult never really did catch on due to its circular cumbersome design, but a great talking point. I have some great memories of Ray that will always stay with me, just like the

time many years ago when he sent a signed photo of him to hang up in a new tackle shop that I was running.



During his match fishing Career Ray became a true champion at most venues he fished and so diverse in his techniques he won many a competition including the 1972 Thames Championships with a bag of 20lb 4oz Chub. Winning the Gladding Masters semi on the River Nene with 14lb of Bleak, In the late 1960s and early 1970s, there was nobody better when it came to innovation match fishing. He would make regular trips over to the Favearre Tackle Shop in France, to pick up pole fishing gizmos from the continent. Putting into practice what he had learnt from the continental anglers In one week alone, he won a Wednesday match with a 5lb 13oz net of minnows from the River Ivel, a Saturday match with 19lb of crucian carp from a gravel pit, and another river match on the Sunday with a 19lb bag consisting of just five big chub and barbel.

One of Ray's innovations was his Escort estate van, lime green that was all racked out to take rods, groundbait and all the tackle required to be so successful in his matches. In my opinion The best Angler England has ever produced and that he never fished for his Country in the World Championships, a match he would have probably won



He apparently spent the last couple of years in a wheelchair, which for an active man like Ray would have been a nightmare.

I hope he rests in piece, as he was a great angler and a pioneer, who helped not just me but a lot of other people”



See his Video clip from the 60s

<http://www.britishpathe.com/video/king-fisher>