

A COLEORTON FISHERMAN'S TALE



BY SAMUEL T STEWART - OCTOBER 2021

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THE CARP IN MR. BIRD'S BATH

COLEORTON MAN'S CATCH

With a 10lb. carp lashing about in the bath at his home in Coleorton, Coalville., Mr. W. Bird ([Billie](#)) has found that the compleat angler can be a very worried man. Mr. Bird wants the fish - prize catch of his life - to be adopted by someone with an ornamental pool. Meanwhile it dominates the household, monopolises the bath. and draws a good stream of visitors.

HE RAN HOME FAST

The saga of the carp and Mr. Bird started at Old Bug and Wink reservoir ([Coleorton No.3. Colliery 1875-1933](#)). The water has been partly pumped out, and the swimming area for the fish so reduced. In the battle that followed the carp's bite, Mr. Bird was pulled into the mud ruining his sports jacket and flannels. When he finally landed it, he wrapped it in a sack, ran home and popped it in the bath.

Then he changed into his football kit and added to his sporting prowess by scoring two goals for Coleorton Rovers. After the match he tried to put the carp in a bucket. Refreshed by the crystal tap water after the muddy pond, the carp tried to jump through the bathroom window. Assessing its weight by the 2 foot length, Mr. Bird calculates it is a 10-pounder.

NO STUFFING

On his growing problem, he said to our reporter; "It is a beautiful fish, I can't put it back in the reservoir because the water is so low." "Anyone with a big aquarium or pool can have it, but I want it to go to a good home, and I don't want to see it stuffed."

A battle of man v fish raged in the home of William Bird, soaking walls and the clothing of Mr. George Chippendale his brother-in-law whilst the fish was finally secured for a photograph. [This was shown with the report, but quality wasn't good enough to be shown here.](#)

[On the following page are two photographs of Coleorton Rover's Football team, taken in the 1951/52 season, the same year that Billie caught his beloved carp following which he scored two goals for the team. Billie is No.7. in the top photograph and marked Z in the lower.](#)

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Coleorton Rovers 1951/52 Season

1 - Jackie Croson 2 - Les Croson 3 - John Bettison 4 - Eric Leach 5 - Bill Croson 6 - Tommy Williams

7 - Billie Bird 8 - Tommy Brooks 9 - Daca Ball 10 - Morris Ball 11 - Bob Barkby



Coleorton Rovers Football Club photograph - 1951/52 season

A - M.BIRD, B - B.BIRD, C - J.CROSON, D - J.THORNLEY, E - L.HOLLAND, F - R.HODGES, G - A.FOWKES, H - ?, J - L.CROSON, K - N.GREW, L - E.HOLLAND, M - M.LOVATT, N - C.CROWSON, P - J.CROSON, R - T.WEBSTER, S - B.SMITH, T - ??, V - C.FAIRBROTHER, W - J.TWIGG, X - T.HARLEY, Y - R.CURTIS, Z - **W.BIRD**, 1 - G.DAWSON, 2 - A.SMITH, 3 - R.BARKBY, 4 - B.BIRD