

ESSELLE POLE REPAIRS

Accidents happen, but when you break a section it shouldn't be the end of the line for your pole. This company knows how to make things better...

We're sure it must have happened to many pole users at some time... the sickening sound of one of those beloved pole sections cracking. Now this isn't quite so bad if it's a No1 or No2 section, but what about when it happens to one of the more expensive sections lower down the pole? Worse still, what if your pole is a discontinued model, with little or no spares availability?

There are some anglers who would simply rush out to their local tackle

shop and purchase a nice, brand-new replacement pole, but what about those people who are finding that the credit crunch is biting deep, and can't afford this option? Well, that's where master pole repairer Scott Lane and his son Stefan at Esselle Pole Repairs, in Leicester, can come to the rescue.

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Scott has been in the tackle trade for a good few years, and in that time he noticed that many people simply couldn't pay the high price that some spare sections can cost. So, after some research and practice he decided to pack up his secure job as a rep for a major tackle manufacturer and set up his own business, dedicated to pole repairs.

Through his network of tackle dealers, word very quickly spread that the quality and workmanship of Esselle repairs were second to none. How are the repairs made? Obviously Scott and Stefan didn't let us into all their trade secrets, but a visit to his well-equipped workshop did let a few details out of the bag.

Firstly, after careful inspection and analysis of the break, Scott inserts a mandrel into the broken section to keep its shape. He then wraps the break in a carbon-fibre bandage, using the very best quality pole carbon available to him. This is followed by the part of the process that he keeps to himself... the section is heat-cured to 'repair' the break, taking care not to overcure it, which would actually weaken the original pole's carbon. Finally, the join between old and new carbon is

carefully ground down to make the repair as flush fitting to the original blank as possible, thus ensuring that it still packs away inside the next section.

The problem that Scott encounters is that the repair has to be as thin as possible but without sacrificing strength. However, he has repaired most brands of poles and now knows exactly how each section responds to treatment, so he can be sure that he uses the correct carbon grades and heat to ensure a lasting repair. In fact, Scott is so confident in his procedure and craftsmanship that each repair comes with a lifetime guarantee – an offer that has never been taken up.

To put Esselle's services to the test we gave Scott a broken No4 section from one of the Match Fishing staffers' much-treasured poles. The problem was that he needed the repair to be finished in time to fish a match the following weekend. Scott quickly analysed the breakage and decided on exactly which type of cloth to use and

then set about the task, telling us to call back in a couple of day's time to collect it.

True to his word the section was repaired on time and to perfection, as can be seen from the pictures, and as Scott pointed out is now probably stronger than it was before. One very happy angler was able to confidently fish his match that weekend (but sadly, as is usually the case, failed to win!). The cost of a replacement section for this pole would have been in the region of £110, but Scott carried out this repair for just £25.

"The cost of the repair obviously depends on the damage and varies from section to section," Scott told us, "but all you have to do is give me a call and in 99 per cent of cases I can give you a quote over the telephone."

Esselle Pole Repairs is now a business that's literally going from strength to strength, and is helping anglers continue their sport on the bank... without breaking the bank.





Some breaks are worse than others!



The finished repair is made as unobtrusive as possible.



Stronger than the original!



For more details call Scott on 07759 678774,
e-mail him on esselle@polerepairs.co.uk or visit
www.polerepairs.co.uk