



A quick phone call to Sonik's to go for the 16-footer first.

operations director and fellow North East angler Tony Anderson, and the date was set to put the rods

through their paces. We both thought smoothhounds from OF ROD

the beach would TRY THEM ALL BEFORE YOU BUY give us a great indication of how the rods would perform. But the weather gods were to turn against us as the wind swung from a gentle south-westerly to a blustery, biting north-easterly.

We poked our heads out over the promenade at Sutton-on-Sea, only to be greeted with pounding surf crashing up the beach.

"That's the smoothhounds knocked on the head," I thought, but after a reassuring smile from

15ft and 16ft lengths and are rods out for a test drive, the ringed for fixed-spool reels. My smoothhounds had arrived in reel was loaded with 20lb braid packs on the Lincolnshire coast. and a tapered leader, so I decided

> The pleasing thing for me is Sonik's adjustable screw winch fitting. I have slightly long

arms, so I was able to fix the reel in the 'up' position perfectly. that catching IF THERE'S A CHOICE After a couple of gentle swings to get the feel of the outfit, it was time to push this

rod a little harder. A big overhead thump sent my sinker way out over the waves, but it felt as if I had only given the rod a gentle flick. Now it was time for a full pendulum workout. A big out swing and huge flat arc saw me pull into the

force that the 5oz sinker was creating. The rod arched and came through sweetly, and when I thumped it hard skywards, the or complaining from it at all. sinker sailed away at high speed.

The thin braid was obviously cutting through the northerly gale, and there was no wobble at all when I watched the rod tip pointing to the slate grey sky.

With a wind behind me I could have easily doubled the distance I was hitting. Would it work in a fishing situation, though?

I attached a three-hook flapper rig loaded with small peeler baits and wound up a strong, powerful cast. Out it went with ease and dropped my baits well beyond the heavy surf.

Five minutes later the rod began to arch over, not from a fish but from the huge amount of weed that had caused the spikes on the sinker to spring out.

This was good really, because it is not often you get to test a rod in difficult conditions. As I pumped the rod against the obvious weed monster, it coped with ease. There was no creaking

## The other models

With the weather worsening, but before we called it a day, I still had time to try the 14ft and 15ft Continental versions.

These both performed equally as well as the longest rod, but I preferred the 16ft version of these three-piece outfits.

For those who like the cosmetics of rods, all these come in a well-finished, high-gloss metallic grey with a carbon weave and textured paint at each joint.

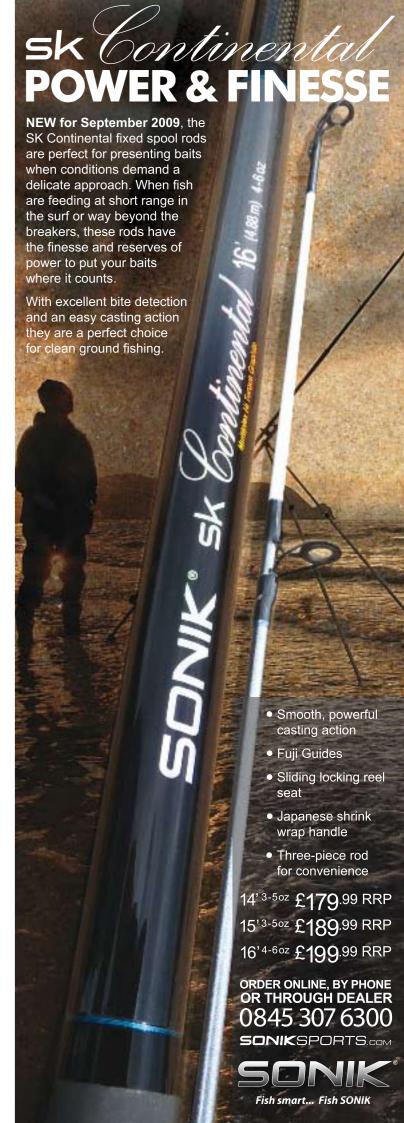
They are fitted with quality rings that are suitable for use with braided lines and positioned for use with a fixed-spool reel. These rings have a black and blue metallic finish.

A sliding lock screw winch fitting can be positioned anywhere along the Japanese shrink tube on the butt section, while the tip has high visibility for spotting bites in darkness.



all three rods performed well and I liked the effortless casting that saw the rod nunching a sinker a long way. I reckon the butt section still had a lot of power in reserve if I really needed to get into it, but at the same time it will deliver delicate baits with no problem at all. I preferred the 16ft model, simply because I like longer rods. Overall, it was a superb performance from these lightweight three-piece outfits from Sonik.

For more information or to find your nearest stockist, contact Sonik Sports Ltd, Riverside Business Park. Coniston Court, Blyth, Northumberland NE24 4RP, tel: 0845 3076262. Web: www.soniksports.com



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