


B.A.A. NEWS



Tel 01562-882116 Fax 01562-882126
Email baajnw@btinternet.com Website www.baa.uk.com

July 2013

12lb 6oz Severn barbel

See page 4

Nordley issue

See Reader Letters pages 19 - 21

Rod Licence cheats

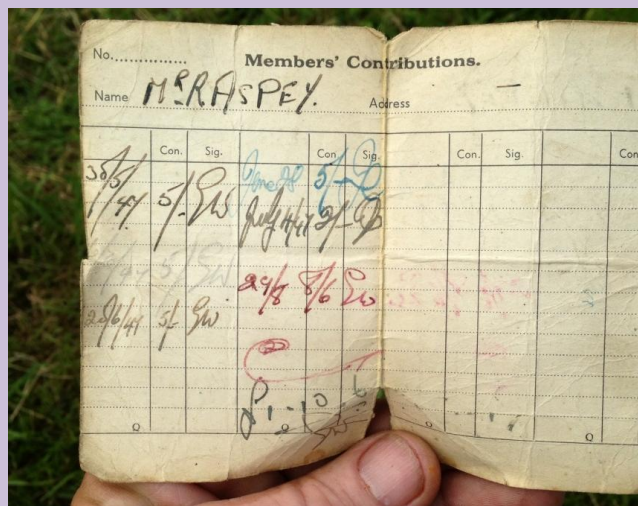
See pages 22 - 25

Severn Barrier latest

See pages 26 - 27

Bailiffing

Bailiff in action!



I was doing a Bailiff run at Fladbury on Wednesday 19th June and met a Mr Murphy. When I asked for his card he asked if the attached membership card would do. It was his Grandfathers a Mr R Aspey, you will see that it is a Bellefield Angling Society Card and affiliated to the BAA. On the second photo, membership contributions appear as 5 shillings (that is 25p) every two weeks or so and is dated 1947. It was a little out of date but Mr Murphy soon found his 2013 card.

Colin Townsend

Bailiffing statistics

163 bailiffing operations have taken place so far this year, with 474 anglers checked and 56 removed for not having the necessary permit.



Fishing news



First chub of the season



I did a Bailiff run on the Lower Avon on Sunday 16th June and I met a happy local angler Gary Watts fishing just inside the gate on Pershore left bank looking really pleased with his first Chub of the season estimate about 2½lb. He said he had only managed to get out for a couple of hours of fishing before he had to travel down to Cornwall for work.

Colin Townsend

Fish of the month



Gaz from Wigan with a 12lb 6oz barbel caught somewhere downstream of Bridgnorth.

Coppice mirror



18lb mirror caught on mainline cell topped with pop up corn covered in korda goo caught on the 8th June.

Scott Lote

Coppice back on form



Hi there

Coppice back on form; I had 4 fish in 2 hours, including this pleasant example of a 19lb Common.

Regards

Jim Clarke

Father and son





Hi all Kev of Birmingham here.

My 9 year old son has just become a new member so off we go on his first fishing trip on the BAA. I got him up at 3am on Saturday 1st June for the 1 hour drive to Nordley.

We got to Nordley as the sun kissed the sky for the start off a new day. We are both fishing pool 2 on the left hand bank, the sun is out but the wind is cold when it blows which is 99% off the time. Moving on to the catch report we had 3 carp out in the 10 hours we were there and lost 2.

The 1st pic is of a 11lb mirror carp taken off the top on a pop-up.

The 2nd is a 8lb 6oz mirror carp taken off the bottom.

And the 3rd is a 9lb 6oz common carp taken off the bottom. My son let me have my photo taken with this one.

P.S can I just say thanks son for a great day of fishing

Hi Kev,

Thanks for the pic's. Just a slightly critical comment if I may, perhaps a lesson for Smith junior in how to hold fish for the camera. You obviously have the 'knack' but so far he hasn't.

Cheers Ed.

Fishing news record

for last 12 months

fish/catcher	lb	oz	location	method	date caught	BAA News edition
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Barbel

River Severn

Gaz from Wigan	12	6	Middle Severn		28/07/2012	July 2013
Malcolm Ford	12	3		Luncheon meat	28/07/2012	Aug 2012
Brian Rossiter	11	12	Severn Stoke	Banded pellet & feeder	19/10/2012	Nov 2012
? Nichols	10	8	Severn Stoke		21/08/2012	Oct 2012
Brian Rossiter	10		Severn Stoke	Banded pellet & feeder	19/10/2012	Nov 2012
Karen Summerfield	9	2	Ribbesford		?	Oct 2012
Roy Price	9	1	Arley	2 x 8mm halibut pellets over bed of 3mm pellets	13/07/2012	Aug 2012
Bob Bennett	9	1	Erdington	2 x 12mm halibut pellets	13/07/2012	Aug 2012
Chris Manns	6	12	Underdale	Water at 5°C	03/03/2013	April 2013

River Avon

David Holland	10	12	Wasperton		14/07/2012	Aug 2012
Rob Holland	10	8	Wasperton		14/07/2012	Aug 2012
Mike Bothwell	10	2	Wasperton	1 inch cube of meat	03/01/2013	Feb 2013
Brian Rossiter	10		Fladbury	Banded pellet & feeder	07/01/2013	Feb 2013
Brian Rossiter	7		Fladbury	Banded pellet & feeder	07/01/2013	Feb 2013

River Teme

Steve Welland	10		Stanford Bridge		July 2012	Aug 2012
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Bream

River Avon

Graham Beck	6	Marlcliff	Maggots/maggot feeder	Aug 2012	Sep 2012
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Pools

Colin Weed	4	Coppice		14/08/2012	Sep 2012
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Kevin Smith	3	13 Coppice		28/04/2013	May 2013
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Common Carp

River Severn

Andy Keen	9	Ladyham	Stick float fished tight to bank, single white maggot, 18 hook, 1.7lb hook length, 3lb mainline	17/09/2012	Oct 2012
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River Salwarpe

Martin Dugmore	6	2 Claines	Ground bait feeder with maggots on 16 hook & 3lb hook length	08/03/2013	April 2013
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Pools

Graham Sheldon	22	1 Coppice		Oct 2012	Dec 2012
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Graham Sheldon	20	8 Coppice		Oct 2012	Dec 2012
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Sam Chapman	19	6 Mythe		26/07/2012	Aug 2012
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Jim Clarke	19	Coppice			July 2013
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Kevin Smith	17	Coppice		14/08/2012	Sep 2012
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Andy Marsh	16	4 Nordley Pool 2	PVA bag with pellets, hair rigged cheesy hemp/garlic pellet tight in margins	27/05/2013	June 2013
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Kev Abel	15	Coppice		18/08/2012	Sep 2012
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Kevin Smith	14	10 Coppice		02/11/2012	Dec 2012
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Kevin Smith	14	4 Coppice		02/11/2012	Dec 2012
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Kevin Smith	14	1 Coppice		Oct 2012	Nov 2012
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Kevin Smith	13	9 Coppice		Oct 2012	Nov 2012
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Andy Marsh	13	1	Nordley Pool 2	20/05/2013	June 2013
Kevin Smith	12	13	Coppice	Oct 2012	Nov 2012
Andy Marsh	12	4	Nordley Pool 2	20/05/2013	June 2013
Colin Weed	9	12	Coppice	Oct 2012	Nov 2012
Kevin Smith & Son	9	6	Nordley Pool 2	01/06/2013	July 2013

Leather Carp

Canals

Jonathan Albutt	19	Birmingham Worcester	Stalking tactics in the margins	?	Oct 2012
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Mirror Carp

Pools

Scott Lote	20	Coppice		?	Oct 2012
Scott Lote	18	Coppice	Mainline cell topped with pop up corn covered in korda goo	08/06/2013	July 2013
Andy Lea	17	13 Coppice	Single dumbbell with no free offerings	22/04/2013	May 2013
Kevin Smith	15	13 Coppice		28/04/2013	May 2013
Kevin Smith	15	7 Coppice		Oct 2012	Nov 2012
Kevin Smith	13	Coppice		27/04/2013	May 2013
Andy Marsh	11	8 Nordley Pool 2		20/05/2013	June 2013
Kevin Smith & Son	11	Nordley Pool 2	Taken off top on pop-up	01/06/2013	July 2013
Colin Weed	11	Coppice		14/08/2012	Sep 2012
Andy Marsh	9	14 Nordley Pool 2	PVA bag with pellets, hair rigged cheesy hemp/garlic pellet tight in margins	27/05/2013	June 2013
Andy Marsh	9	12 Nordley Pool 2		20/05/2013	June 2013
Kevin Smith & Son	8	6 Nordley Pool 2		01/06/2013	July 2013

Chub

River Avon

David Wood	6	7	Marlcliff		?	Sep 2012
Paul Wood	6	5	Marlcliff		?	Sep 2012
Matthew Smith	6	0	Pershore	2 x 12mm halibut pellet	04/07/2012	Aug 2012
Gary Watts	2	8	Pershore	Gary's first chub of the season	16/06/2013	July 2013

River Severn

Chris Manns	4	0	Underdale	Water at 5°C	03/03/2013	April 2013
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River Teme

Cameron Preece	4	4	Broadwas		Aug 2012	Sep 2012
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Perch

River Severn

Joe Boles	2	8	Arley RB Harbour		15/09/2012	Oct 2012
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Pools

Mark Latham	3	8	Coppice	Float fished double maggot	06/11/2012	Dec 2012
Dave Beasley	3	0	Coppice		03/02/2013	Mar 2013

Tench

River Avon

Derek Gabb	3	14	Pershore LB	Hair rigged cut down boillie and swim feeder full of pellets	Aug 2012	Oct 2012
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Pools

Tony Barnett	5	4	Uckinghall	Float fished single red maggot	06/10/2012	Nov 2012
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Nature views



River bank flowers

Whilst working with the Fisheries Team preparing our river fisheries for the start of the new season. I took my camera along to capture a record of the flowers that cover the river banks. I hope I've named the flowers correctly, if not please let me know.

Blackstone



Red Campion



Hawthorne

Erdington Brook Section



Common Poppy in a field of Rape



Meadow Buttercup

Quatford



Common Comfrey



Field Rose



Red Clover



Red Campion with Buff-tailed Bumblebees

Mythe swans



A family of swans at Myth Pool on Friday 7th June, the eight chicks appear to be strong so they might make it to adulthood.

Colin Townsend

Lamprey on the Teme

When visiting Broadwas on the River Teme with Fisheries to carry out the summer haircut. I was working at the upstream end of the water and also keeping a lookout for evidence of otters. I noticed something on a beach on the edge of the river nearby. Thinking it may be the remains of a fish an otter had caught and feasted on I checked it out.

What I found was a strange green and cream creature about 12 inches in length with a circular mouth on its' underside and a line of gill holes on either side of its' head. It was unmarked by otter or anything else but it looked like it had been dead for some time. The opinion of the Fisheries team was that it was a River Lamprey which was verified by checking in my copy of *Field Guide to the Water Life of Britain* when I got home.

I found out that lamprey spawn in fresh water where the resulting young remain for about five years. They then migrate to the sea where they parasitically feed on other fish by attaching themselves with their sucker mouth. Lamprey return to freshwater to spawn, but do not feeding during this time, a similar lifecycle to a salmon. Maybe what I found was a lamprey that had spawned and then died?

Spot that sign



Hello all,

I hope you are still doing old BAA signs. I shot this one on/in a Willow on the Mease near Harlaston.

Regards

James Stubbs



Here is one I spotted at Erdington Brook Section.

Editor



Executive update



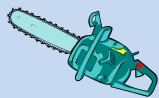
Change to Association Bye-laws

The following change to BAA Bye-laws was agreed at the Executive meeting on the 6th June: ***It shall constitute an offence for any member (including the holder of a day permit) to fail to vacate any Association venue which is booked for a bona fide contest, when requested to do so by a duly authorised person (including the holder of a valid contest permit for the particular venue).***

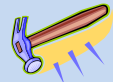
Coppice Lake water monitoring

As a result of the fish deaths last year, the water temperature is being measured on a daily basis during the fish spawning season. If the water temperature rises to 20°C the fishery will be closed and water pumps used to aerate the lake. Due to the late arrival of summer this year this has not yet been required.

We are also investigating the installation of equipment to remotely monitor and report the water temperature removing the requirement for daily visits from next year.



Fisheries report



The Fisheries Work party has carried out summer haircuts at;

River Avon

Wasperton, Pershore, Nafford, Cleeve Prior, Park Farm, Chadbury Meadow,
Wick, Salford Priors, Eckington

River Severn

Mythe Farm, Severn Stoke, Blackstone, Erdington Brook Section,
Quatford, Grimley (meadows 3&4 upstream of car park), Danery, Arley LB

River Teme

Broadwas

Pools

Stubbs



Archive extracts

Midland Angler



Below is an extract from the July 1957 edition, the forerunner to the BAA News.

**WHERE
TO GO**

... Waters Open to All



THIS peaceful-looking stretch of water is part of the B.A.A.'s new fishery at Pinsham, on the Warwickshire Avon, where the Association now controls six meadows holding over 100 pegs.

Results obtained there so far this season have been disappointing, but given a badly-needed flush this long stretch of fairly deep, very easy-flowing water should provide much better catches of dace, roach and bream.

It is ideal contest water; the banks are easy, there

are few obstructions, and the water is of even depth throughout.

How to get there: Birmingham—Alcester—Evesham—cross river and turn right for Pershore—left at approaches to Pershore Bridge—right at Pensham Only signpost and continue to bear right to farm buildings.

A car park is available at the rear of the farm from which a cart track leads down to the water. The meadows are already signposted, numbered 1 to 6, starting at the upstream end.

Below are two extracts from the July 1958 edition.

JIM WHEAT Recalls . . .

Opening Day On The Canal

THERE'S always something strangely fascinating about the opening day of a new season on the Grand Union Canal, and June 16th last was no exception. It was hot and humid with a slight warm wind, conditions which warmed the top layer of water quickly and induced the fish, which were obviously in holiday mood too, to come to the surface. There they rolled and porpoised, the smaller ones leaping, perhaps in sheer enjoyment or perhaps taking the gnats which danced in their millions above the water.

Despite one's own forebodings at this scene, one is nonetheless in some way cheered by this display of fishy numbers. At least, one feels, the water does contain fish. And what fish! Just as you are fixing your top joint your rather precise carefulness is disturbed by something bumping about twenty yards away to your left. You hurry on with setting up your tackle. Meanwhile, the sportive bream continues to shoulder the water in his bit of canal up to your end.

Bream or roach, you feel, who cares? Canals were built three foot six deep, you remember, and still are where narrow boats continue to pass. So you set your float and your eye automatically traces the path a boat must take. Near the towpath bank on this bend, crossing over to the far side for the next bend and down the centre for that long straight. Silt will build up each side of this track. The water might only be twelve inches deep under those trees where that moorhen is. All right, we will start fishing (at three foot six) and work across, lowering the float as we go.

Nothing happens. Not a knock. Steadily we work through the permutations of maggots, worms, bread paste, flake and stewed wheat at three foot six, two foot six, etc. But still nothing happens. Your earlier fears are coming back. One or two sizeable ones (you can tell them by the solid splash they make) are still rolling about.

You stop groundbaiting. For an hour you have been laying a trail from those bushes to the open and still the ripples keep coming out. Obviously, that fish and all the others with him are not feeding on the bottom either—if they are feeding.

All right, we will come off the bottom. Fish are patrolling to and fro (we guess) two feet down. We fix our float at that depth and run through all the baits again.

At last, stewed wheat produces a bite, but the steady, stultifying hum of bees and a million flies are singing you to sleep. It is only the occasional "plop" that keeps you awake. You miss that one. Another long wait and stewed wheat produces another bite which this time translates itself into a small roach.

Now, only a small roach with no experience would take a bait that is suspended in mid-water in defiance of all those natural laws which little fishes may not

know but which they must recognise in effect. But what are the big fish doing? Still feeding or rolling about on the top, in company with dozens of smaller brethren? Perhaps a fly would tempt them, perhaps other surface baits such as a floating caterpillar or even a floating maggot?

Strip off weights and float, hook on the maggot and try casting. Not very good, even in this slight wind. Of course you need a tapered line, heavy enough to shoot out on the cast. All right, fix on that small quill float eighteen inches from the maggot. Better? A little, until the maggot sinks, and is corrected by dipping into a line floatant.

Eventually you take another roach. Hard work, not very rewarding, but nevertheless better than trying to induce surface-feeding fish to feed on the bottom.

But it is too late. Miles, many miles maybe, have to be covered, and anyway we have a whole new season before us.

In future shall we carry (like one at least I know) a fly rod and tapered line, casts and flies to match, just in case? Or shall we strip off all weight from our line and float a maggot or a piece of bread crust?

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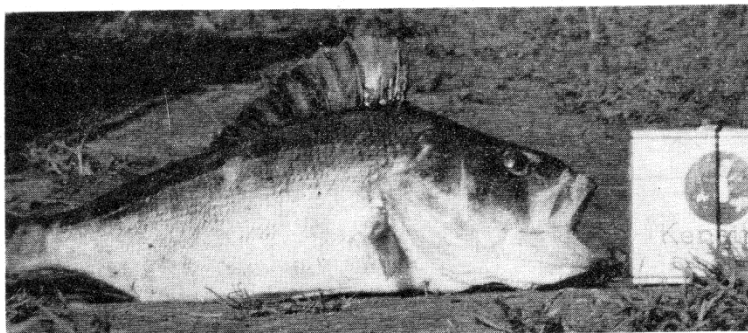
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Flood Water Has Its Good Points

**Strictly
For
Specimen
Hunters**

by
**Norman
Woodward**



A nice perch of 2½ lb.—one of the many specimens I have had from flooded rivers.

AS a result of the heavy rain during the early days of the new season one of my local rivers, the Wreake, has been well in flood. A bad thing from the angling point of view? In some ways yes, but personally I enjoy fishing a river which is in flood—especially if it is a river I know quite well and which I have often fished under flood conditions.

There are in fact several things about a flooded river that give the angler a decided advantage. In the first place nearly every species of fish is "worm conscious" and many that would fall to other baits in normal conditions are only too pleased to take a full lobworm. Even quite small dace somehow manage to scoff a whole lob.

Secondly, flood conditions always

force fish of all varieties to congregate into a relatively small area with the result that, once a place has been located, a mental note can be made to put it to good when the floods roll round again.

The third advantage is that when a river is high and coloured it is far easier to approach even the shiest of fish without being seen, and the soft ground also helps to make one's footsteps less likely to scare them away.

The only disadvantage is trying to diagnose exactly where the fish are likely to be when a river is up. I've read lots of articles and books in which various writers have stated emphatically that flood water anglers should fish slacks and eddies to the exclusion of all other pitches.

But my experience has been that had I followed that advice to the letter I would have caught far fewer fish and not nearly so many specimens either.

The point to bear in mind is that although a swim may have the appearance of a maelstrom on the surface, it does not necessarily follow that it may be the same all the way down. Close to the bottom it may in fact be travelling slowly enough for fish to be present.

A case in point is a particular swim on the Wreake at Brooksby. Normally a rapid, it lies a short distance below a narrow bridge and is separated from the bridge by a right-angled bend in the river.

When a heavy flood comes along the water naturally takes the shortest course and thunders in a straight line across the field as well as along its normal channel around the bend. The result is that the former rapid, although appearing to be going extremely fast on the surface, is in fact deeper than usual and, towards the bottom, is travelling quite slowly, the main volume of flood water being concentrated over the field.

So slowly does it travel that one can hold bottom quite easily with a ½ ounce ledger. I have had quite a number of chub and perch there when, at first glance, conditions appeared hopeless.

Mind you, it is not always possible and certainly never easy to deduce exactly where fish rest up during a flood. But it does pay to ignore what your eyes can see and give each swim a fair trial—even when you feel certain that it is hopeless.

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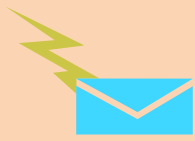
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Readers' letters



If you have any items, thoughts, issues you want to air in the BAA news, please email it to baajnw@btinternet.com titled for attn of BAA News Editor.

When sending in a comment can you please let us know if you don't want your name included?

The Editor will act as moderator for items to be included.

Hi there!

Just to add my 2p worth to the topic of Nordley Pools.

Today, myself and my partner Liz, fished Nordley Pool 3 from around 8:00am to 5:00pm, I legered 2 rods with a range of large baits - meat, bread, corn, prawn, cockle, etc. And I tried floating baits later in the day too, Liz legered corn and maggot with a swim feeder and later started float fishing.

Results of the day - not even one nudge for me, 2 bites for Liz, both on float fished maggot which resulted in 2 small (< 3oz) perch being landed.

However, the day being bright and sunny albeit with a cool easterly breeze, and water virtually crystal clear, we did see quite a lot of carp movement and bow waves over the pool. Also a lot of tadpoles around - plus a large shoal of 1" fry passed by my peg at one point being chased and harassed by 4 or 5 perch of around 4"-5".

Two other people fished our pool too for shorter periods than ourselves but we didn't see them land anything.

Steve Ridd

Visited Danery 22/06/13, couldn't believe it was like a jungle, worst I've seen the place although the pegs were ok, I ended up not fishing as walking through the jungle something went in my eye and I had a severe reaction closing my eye up, then had to drive 30 miles back home and off to the A&E eye hospital! Places like this should have these walkways trimmed down during the closed season, would welcome a response!

Paul Fallowfield

Paul, I hope your eye is fully recovered.

To answer your question: Each year the Fisheries teams focus on preparing our river waters for the start of the new season. This activity starts when the bank side vegetation has grown sufficiently to make it practical. This involves;

Strimming/cutting back the vegetation around the pegs and associated steps/path to the pegs.

Clearing any silt etc from the platform,

Digging out and clearing steps.

Cutting back tree branches that block access or will interfere with fishing.

If the land owner has not done so already, strimming or mowing a footpath along the bank.

We have two volunteer teams doing the summer haircuts and usually each team visits two waters a week enabling us to do four per week on average. As you can see from the Fisheries Report section on page 15 we completed 20 waters in June.

We prioritise waters where matches have been booked early in the season or that are popular. We try and complete as many as possible before that start of the season. This year it has been particularly difficult. Due to the late arrival of spring we did not start until 27th May, just over two weeks before the start of the season. We did not waste our time prior to this; we spend many weeks repairing and rebuilding platforms that had been damaged in the recent floods.

There are a small number of river waters that do not get visited due to their remoteness or small number of visiting anglers, such those on the Severn on the Welsh border.

When we have previously visited our waters on the River Team to do the summer haircuts we have been told by anglers there that they would prefer us not to do so as they prefer them to be left in a 'natural' condition.

To summarise, we try and prepare our river waters during the close season, but we always have some still to do at the start of the season, this year being particularly bad due to the late spring. We prioritise the popular waters and those that have matches booked early in the new season.

A practical suggestion for anglers visiting a water that has not yet had a summer haircut would be to wear a pair of sun glasses to protect the eyes from the vegetation.

Ed

Hi Guys

1) Is there any chance that the guide booklet to our waters can be updated when I first joined BAA about 5 years ago I read the booklet and it still says the same thing now like Stourton being a new water and not a lot is known about it.

I find the information about the waters well outdated and have purchased several copies hoping for change but they all say the same thing

I know we have a new cover on the latest guide but the info inside is still the same as it was 5 years ago

2) The monthly news is a good read apart from the records section

3) I read in the monthly newsletter about the lack of fish at Nordley pool 4 and 5 and yes about 3 years ago I could go and fish pool 4 and catch a good bag of roach and perch (no bream or tench though) now I struggle for a bite is there something wrong ?

4) Sorry for the rant, you do run an extremely good association and it can be a thankless task I appreciate it. I have just been sitting on these items for a while and just got around to asking. Keep up the good work

Regards

David Loveridge

David thanks for your email. I would call it useful feedback not a rant.

To try and answer your questions;

1. Guide to Waters

I agree with your comment, before the next issue we need to review and if needed update entries. It can be difficult to update information on what can be caught at different waters. In previous years the BAA ran many matches, a valuable source on information on what is caught and where, which is no longer readily available. So if you think a particular entry in the guide is incorrect, please let us know.

2. BAA News

Thanks for your feedback. On the question of the Fishing News Record, it was originally included as a result of a reader's suggestion. It has grown somewhat and now takes up 4 pages. I have tried to trim it down by only keeping a record of catches for 12 months.

Do we need to change it to something else, reduce the duration of the record from 12 months or scrap it? Please send in your suggestions.

3. Nordley Pools

We currently don't have an answer for the lack of fish being caught in the lower pools. The issue may be related to my response to your first question, in that due to the BAA's loss of feedback from matches on what is being caught, we are often unaware of a problem until members start reporting it (one of the benefits of BAA News Readers Letters).

How do we fix this? Our bailiffs visit our waters and talk to anglers, but they are very busy doing this. I don't think it would be realistic to give them the additional task of monitoring what and how many fish are being caught.

Would an extra section in the BAA News for readers to report problems with waters be useful? As we have seen the original letter regarding Nordley Pool 3 resulted in more feedback from our members and made sure the BAA was aware.

We will keep you all updated on what we find out about and plan for Nordley.

Ed

Rooting out rod licence cheats

Last Bank Holiday weekend all our Environment Agency fishery bailiffs were out and about checking that anglers had got a rod licence. This is a short blog about why and how we do it.

Rod Licences

If you're aged 12 or over and you go fishing for salmon, trout or coarse fish in England and Wales you need to have a rod licence. If you are caught fishing without a licence you risk a large fine and you could lose the fishing tackle you are using.



Why is there a rod licence?

The first national fishing licence was introduced in 1992. Before this each nationalised water authority issued its' own and anglers had to buy one for each authority area they fished (which was not popular!).

The principle behind rod licences is that those who participate in and gain benefit from the sport should contribute to the cost of maintaining, developing and improving fisheries. The Environment Agency has been given the responsibility for carrying out much of this work and the income we receive from rod licence sales funds a portion of it.

The main work areas which licence payers help fund are:

regulation and enforcement



fisheries monitoring



promotion and advice



incident response and fish rescues



stocking and improvements (such as habitat improvements, fish passes, fisheries development and improvement)



We also provide advice to angling clubs, and last year we made over 2,000 site visits to give advice and attended 700 angling club meetings. To encourage new anglers into the sport we coached over 25,000 beginners at various events.

We can maximise rod licence income in two ways – by encouraging more anglers to participate and making sure all anglers buy a rod licence.

Rod licence checking

In the Midlands we have a team of dedicated fisheries enforcement officers. They are highly trained (in many areas to the same level as police officers), carry specialised equipment (stab vests, handcuffs, batons) and have a lot of knowledge and experience of angling. They are responsible for a range of enforcement duties – elver protection, salmon poaching, illegal fish introductions as well as rod licence compliance checks and enforcement.



This year in the Midlands they will check over 14,000 licences. All our rod licence work is intelligence-led. This means that we target our patrols on areas we believe we are more likely to find people without licences.

Our intelligence comes from a variety of sources, such as the previous history of sites, specific tip-offs, surveillance and incident reports. This is all assessed by our crime analyst who then devises a programme of targeted activity.

All the reports we receive about illegal fishing are fed into this process so even if we can't respond immediately they all help in building our intelligence picture.

Bank Holiday blitz

Last weekend in the Midlands we carried out 761 rod licence checks at 51 different locations across 11 counties. As a result we reported 76 people for offences. These reports will now be processed by our national enforcement team who will decide whether we recommend to prosecute individuals.



The figures reveal that we reported offences on 10% of all checks. We certainly don't believe that 1 in 10 of all anglers are licence cheats and think that it reflects the fact that we are successfully targeting high evasion locations. Indeed in a couple of targeted hotspots near Scunthorpe and Gloucester last weekend we reported 50% of all anglers checked!

We have many more operations planned for this year so please have your licences ready! Remember, if you haven't had your licence checked it may be that you're fishing in fairly compliant locations. If you know different tell us – you know who to call (0800 80 70 60)!

Note:

The above article was written by Dave Throupe, Environment Agency Manager for Hereford and Worcestershire and is available via the following hyperlink;

<http://davethroupea.wordpress.com/>

Plans for a Severn Barrage should now sink without trace say Angling Trust

Anglers and wildlife groups are celebrating the damning verdict of the influential House of Commons Energy & Climate Change Committee on Hafren Power's proposals for an 18 km concrete barrage across the Severn Estuary which could have seen the end of viable salmon, seatrout, shad and eel runs on the Wye, Severn, Usk and their tributaries as well as doing irreparable damage to important marine species such as bass, pollack and rays.

The Select Committee, which heard powerful evidence from the Angling Trust, concluded that the consortium's plans are inadequate, poorly researched and completely fail to address the environmental issues that would arise from such a construction including the damage to fish and birdlife. A technical report from the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology was released at the same time, highlighting the massive environmental impact of a barrage in such a sensitive environment.

The Angling Trust, as the representative body for all anglers in England, has challenged the Hafren Power proposals robustly over the past year, repeatedly calling for evidence to back up the many spurious claims made for the barrage including that the 1,000 turbines proposed might be 'fish friendly'. Former MP Martin Salter, who is now the National Campaigns Co-ordinator for the Angling Trust, gave evidence at the Select Committee inquiry alongside the RSPB, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and the National Trust. His oral evidence and the Trust's written submission are extensively quoted in the report:

- *"Martin Salter...described claims about the 'fish-friendly' characteristics of Hafren's turbines as 'guff' and 'spin', reflecting a sense of distrust toward the Consortium on the part of some environmental groups";*
- *"The Angling Trust feared the further degradation of fish stocks and the resultant impact on the angling economy, which it described as a "vitally important part of the social and economic fabric of communities along rivers throughout the Severn basin and along the coastline"*
- *Martin Salter described the species composition of the estuary: In terms of fish, there are 83 species of fish recorded in the Severn estuary. It is an incredibly dynamic habitat, both for migratory fish and freshwater fish upstream of the intertidal zone and obviously as a nursery area for bass and many other important sea fish. There are five Annex II species. These are the highly protected species under the Habitats Directive [including] the twaite shad, the lamprey and the salmon. There are 11 Biodiversity Action Plan protected species."*

The Angling Trust has played a leading role within the coalition of environmental organisations opposed to the Severn Barrage. All these organisations share the view that there is an urgent need to increase the country's renewable energy sources and agree that the Severn estuary offers significant opportunities to generate power but not with schemes that cause unacceptable damage to the natural environment. The Angling Trust argued for testing a wide range of smaller scale renewable energy projects that can be monitored, modified and extended only when proven to be economically and ecologically-viable.

This was an approach shared by the Select Committee who said: "Government should consider a more proactive approach to managing Severn Tidal Resources to harness its massive tidal range in the most sustainable and cost-effective

way”

They added “Hafren Power has not overcome the serious environmental concerns that have been raised. Further research, data and modelling are needed before environmental impacts can accurately assessed – especially regarding fluvial flood risk, intertidal habitats and impact to fish. The need for compensatory habitat on an unprecedented scale casts doubt on whether the project could achieve compliance with the EU Habitats Directive.”

In response the UK Government said: “We welcome the committee’s report which supports our views on the current proposal for a Severn Barrage by the Hafren Power consortium. We are very keen to maximise the opportunity to extract energy from the seas around our coast, and our rivers – including the Severn Estuary. “Harnessing the power of the Severn Estuary could be a very significant asset for the UK. The Government is open to working with affordable, environmentally responsible projects that represent good value for consumers.”

Mark Lloyd, chief executive of the Angling Trust said: “I’m really proud of the role played by Martin Salter and the whole Angling Trust team who have worked so hard with the other organisations to expose the half-cocked and wholly unsubstantiated proposals from Hafren Power and to highlight the very real threat they pose to fish and fishing. “We are delighted that the committee has accepted our position that there is no evidence to support Hafren Power’s many spurious claims, including that they had found turbines which are in some way ‘fish-friendly’. Anglers from Swansea to Shrewsbury will be celebrating that the many of the 83 species of marine and migratory fish in the Severn estuary have been saved from having to pass back and forth through 1,000 turbines on every ebb and flow of the tide.”

Martin Salter, National Campaigns Co-ordinator said: “Through the Angling Trust our sport is now operating at a higher and more professional level than ever before. With the support of our colleagues on the All Party Angling Group we have played a significant role in facing down a multi million pound private sector consortium which was trying to press ahead with the installation of 1,000 fish mincing turbines in one of the most important fisheries in our country. Both Parliament and the Government have actively sought out our views and, for once, have come down on our side. I have no doubt that this was because of our willingness to defend important fish habitat in the European Courts and the strength of the case we made to the parliamentary select committee.

These plans for a Severn Barrage should now sink without trace and we need to get on with finding ways to harness the power of the Severn without destroying the environment for birds and fish.”

George Hollingbery, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Angling said: “It’s been great to see angling organisations and conservation groups working together and raising in parliament the importance of vital ecosystems like the Severn Estuary. Of course renewable energy is important but so are our genetically unique spawning runs of salmon, sea trout and other species which could easily be lost forever. I congratulate the Angling Trust and my colleagues on the Select Committee on a job well done.”