



# B.A.A. NEWS



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July 2014

## Apley Fishery parking

See page 2

## More on Coppice barbel!

See pages 3 & 5

## New season Severn barbel

See pages 6 & 7



# Bailiffing

## 'Watch out there's a bailiff about!'

Association bailiffs have been out and about during the start of the new rivers season and report good catches up and down the River Severn. A number of non-members have been removed from our waters but generally, reports show that our members have been out in their numbers enjoying the good weather and benefiting from good fishing conditions.

There are a few concerns about the illegal taking of fish in certain areas following the discovery of fish/eel traps and fixed lines, but we are working with the EA and Angling Trust to investigate these incidents. If you do find a fish trap of any kind, please phone the EA hotline and make a report but don't remove it from the water. An EA bailiff will come out to deal with the matter. If in doubt you can contact the BAA on the numbers provided in your guide to waters handbook.

Remember, every member is an honorary bailiff, so please work together to keep our waters safe and enjoyable for us all.

Tight lines!

Kevin Pearson  
Superintendent Bailiff  
Birmingham Anglers' Association

# Apley Fishery parking

We have received a complaint from Apley Estates that BAA members have been driving vehicles across the two meadows alongside the upstream section of the fishery to park alongside the river. This is causing damage to the farmer's crops and must stop.

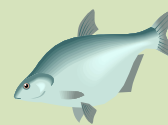
We have put 'no vehicles past this point' signs in the entries to the meadows from the upstream car park and from the A442.

When using this fishery please park in the car park or field entries (without blocking access) and walk to the river around the edge of the meadows.

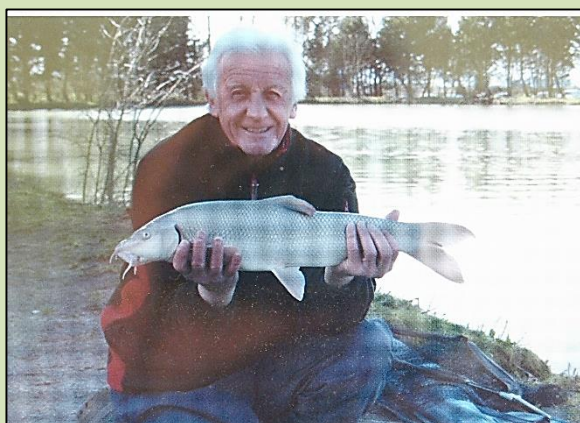




# Fishing news



## More on Coppice barbel



It was with interest I read in the June newsletter of the barbel caught by Roger O'Malley, interesting to me bearing in mind only three were put in the lake. Although going back to mid-March I had two in succession, one would appear to be the same fish Roger caught at about 5lb, and one a bit smaller at about 4lb. In a two acre lake or thereabout, what are the odds of that I wonder.

Bait was luncheon meat.

To make the day even more lucky while fishing for the roach and skimmers to keep me busy, I had a 21lb 8oz common caught on a tiny piece of break flake, 16 hook, 4lb line and my float rod, my saving grace I think being the very soft rod taking strain off the line, and the fact the water was still cold at that time and the fish was somewhat dozy, at least until it was on the bank. A bit of a fluke perhaps but it does show you can never know what to expect next.

Apologies for poor quality photos...

Thanks Graham Beck



## Kev's reports

Hi all, did a day at Nordley on Saturday 31st May. Got to Nordley at 4:30am and fished until 9pm had one mirror carp at 14lb 13oz off the top on pool 2.



Popped to Nordley on 11<sup>th</sup> June had 2 commons @ 11lb 9oz, 10lb 9oz and a mirror off the top at 10lb 9oz from pool 1.



Did 14 hours at Coppice on the 19<sup>th</sup> June, weights and pics of some below;



13lb 9oz



14lb 7oz

And last of all "OMG" what is going on at Coppice? I've fished Coppice since the BAA have owned it and in all that time I never heard of any barbel coming out. But in your last newsletter a barbel came out of coppice and to my joy I had this!





6lb 12oz barbel

So my question! What is going on at coppice? Have the BAA put the barbel in there? And if the BAA did put them in how come you didn't tell the members?

Thanks Kev of Birmingham :)

*Ed; as I said in the June issue;*

*As a result a lake being filled in as part of the Birmingham Airport expansion, the BAA was requested help in relocating the fish, which went into Coppice. They were mainly silver fish with a few tench, bream and three barbel.*

*I don't know why this stocking was not announced at the time via a note in the BAA News and Facebook, especially with the introduction of new fish species (barbel and tench) even in small numbers which are bound to raise questions when caught. I will ask the question at our next meeting.*

*That barbel looks a bit of a porker, to much lazing around in still water and scoffing all that free carp bait! The two pictured below from the Severn look much sleeker :)*

## Avon perch



*Ed; a couple of pictures of perch from the Avon sent by person unknown.*



## Arley beauty



Hi

An 11lb beauty from Arley L/B, decided to do a late afternoon evening session on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June having found a well cut out peg, to which a thanks the bank clearing team. After a couple of hours of little knocks and pulls on the pellets I switched to the good old faithful meat, within 15 minutes bang and after what seemed a lifetime of a scrap this beauty was thankfully in the net

Cheers

Shaun Barrett



## Take care of our barbel



Sat 21st June, my first day out of the river season on the Severn at Arley. Caught 5 barbel on double hair rigged 8mm drilled pellets, photo is of the best of the bunch which weighed in at 8lb 12oz. The only thing that spoiled the day was seeing a barbel float past belly up, so here's a special plea to all barbel anglers.

These fish fight so hard and are often completely exhausted after being caught, please allow them time to recover before returning to the main flow. Particularly in hot conditions, otherwise there is a chance they will be too weak to swim in the current and die. Hold them in the margins until you feel they're ready to swim off strongly, you'll soon know when the tail starts to 'kick'. If you're unable to do this due to a steep bank for instance, then place the fish back in the water in your landing net to recover and hold it there until you see signs that the fish is ready to release.

If you want to weigh or photograph your fish, again allow it to recover in the in the margins in your landing net while you prepare the camera/weigh sling etc. The barbel in my photo fought incredibly hard and took a fully 5 minutes to recover.

Barbel give us great sport, let's treat them with the respect they deserve.

John Snape.



# Fishing news record

## for last 6 months

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

#### River Avon

Kevin Day	14	0	Middle			Feb 2014
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#### River Severn

Shaun Barrett	11	0	Arley LB	Meat	22/06/2014	July 2014
Matt Maybury	10	4	Blackstone	Maggot	07/03/2014	Apr 2014
Chris Manns	9	3	Knowle Sands	Double super-glued 12mm ellipse pellets		Apr 2014
John Snape	8	12	Arley	Double 8mm pellet	21/06/2014	July 2014

#### Pools

Kevin Smith	6	12	Coppice		19/06/2104	July 2014
Roger O'Malley	5		Coppice	Spiced luncheon meat	May 2014	June 2014
Graham Beck	5		Coppice		mid-March	July 2014
Graham Beck	4		Coppice		mid-March	July 2014

### Bream

#### Pools

Kevin Smith & Son	4	1	Coppice		04/04/2014	May 2014
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### Common Carp

#### Pools

Graham Beck	21	8	Coppice	Bread flake	mid-March	July 2014
John Wyld	19	4	Coppice	Coconut banana pop-up boillie	01/03/2014	Apr 2014
Harry Treadwell	19	0	Coppice	Hair rigged strawberry boilie	27/12/2013	Feb 2014
Steve Middleton	19	0	Coppice	Corn		Apr 2014
Roger O'Malley	16	0	Coppice	Halibut pellet/corn		June 2014

### Mirror Carp

#### Pools

Kevin Smith	14	13	Nordley 2		31/05/2014	July 2014
Kevin Smith	13	9	Coppice		19/06/2014	July 2014

### Chub

#### River Severn

Chris Manns	5	1	Knowle Sands	Bread flake		Apr 2014
Chris Manns	4	14	Knowle Sands	Bread flake		Apr 2014





# Archive extracts



Below are extracts from the July 1958 and 63 editions of the Midland Angler, the forerunner to the BAA News.

THREE CHUB FISHERMEN SPEND A WEEK  
SEARCHING FOR

## THAT ELUSIVE FIVE POUNDER

by  
FRANK GUTTFIELD

**L**AST year two friends and I, all three of us comparatively young anglers and keen specimen hunters with many good fish to our credit, spent a week's camping-cum-fishing holiday on the upper reaches of the River Ouse. Our primary objective was a really big chubb of at least 5 lb., for at that time none of us had caught a chub of more than 3½ lb.

The type of water most suitable for big chub was, we thought, a little-fished overgrown backwater, which was why we chose the Ouse above Stony Stratford. The Ouse in that area is in complete contrast to its Bedfordshire and Huntingdon sections where it is wide and runs very deep in places. At Stony Stratford it is barely 20 feet wide, crystal clear in the summer, and overgrown both in the water and on the banks. The depth varies between six inches and four feet, but the deeper holes are few and far between. There is, however, an abundance of both animal and vegetable food for fish—among them the main constituents of a chub's diet, crayfish, freshwater shrimps and other small fry.

When we arrived the water was well below summer level, and gin clear. The chub could easily be seen when they came out of the rushes into the open runs. And what fish they were! Some of them looked to be well on the way towards double figures.

After spending a couple of hours "spotting" and deciding where to fish, we tried stalking those big chub using large lobworms for bait on No. 4 eyed hooks tied direct to 6 lb. nylon. But the fish were much too crafty for us. Although we approached them with care and kept well hidden in the undergrowth, they were off like a shot as soon as the bait hit the water.

The only fish that seemed to fancy our lobs were pike, which

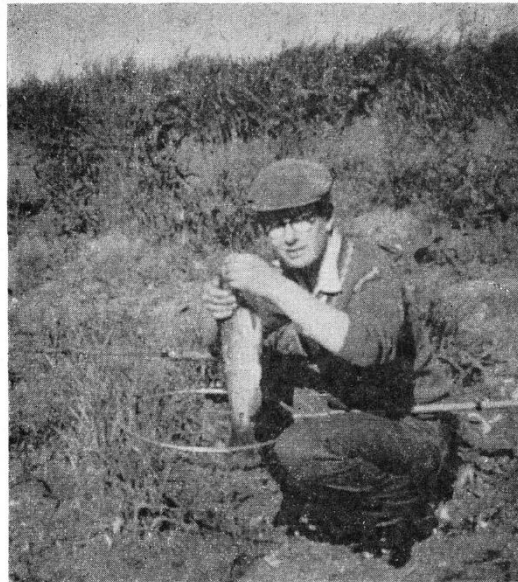
were just as eager to grab them as the chub were to dash off into their weedy haunts.

Could it have been the flash of our wrist watches when casting that sent the chub scurrying to shelter? That is a point worth considering next time you go chubbing on a summer's day.

During the rest of the week we changed our tactics as well as our bait. We decided to concentrate on the weeded up parts of the river, where there were a few narrow runs between the tall, dark green rushes, and substituted crayfish for lobs. We caught the crayfish under boulders in the water, although they can be caught much more quickly by employing a special net containing a dead and stinking fish.

We thought that if we fished long enough, and hard enough, the catching of a specimen chub would be inevitable. So every morning we arrived at the water at dawn, concealed ourselves in the undergrowth, lobbed our baits into the narrow runs and prepared for a long wait. We also decided to stick to the same swims throughout the whole week because we knew they were all inhabited by big chub.

On the second day Bernard Everitt caught the first and biggest chub, a beautifully conditioned fish of 4½ lb. which, like all the fish we catch, was returned to the water after being weighed and photographed.



The author with his best and only fish of the week—a 3½ pounder.

I was not so lucky. On that same morning I lost the fish of a lifetime—and have only myself to blame. I tried to "bully" him too much, pulled his head out of the water—and the hook with the crayfish still on it came flying on to the bank. It is unusual for a hook to pull out of a chub's leathery mouth in this manner, but my luck must have been out. It was also out for the rest of the week, which I spent vainly searching for that lost six-pounder, for after approximately 75 hours' hard fishing the only chub that came to my net was a fish of 3 lb. 6 ozs.

Roger Millard, my other companion, also had only one chub, caught on a crayfish and weighing a couple of ounces more than mine. Both he and Bernard were smashed up by big fish which took them, into rushes, so they reverted to "whopper stopper" rods combined with 11 lb. nylon. But those big chub just weren't interested in crayfish on coarse tackle, and at the end of the week we could not claim more than three fish between us in something liket 200 hours' fishing.

Disappointing? On the contrary, we were quite happy to think that we had managed to get a pound nearer our elusive 5 lb. target. And were it not for stinging nettles and crayfish, which provided us with cover and bait, we would have left that river fishless.



# A TENCH FOR LUNCH

by  
K. G. COPE

**E**ARLY morning or late evening is usually considered to be the best time for tench fishing—but not by me. I like to catch my tench during the mid-day break whilst I am eating my sandwiches!

How come? Well, its easy really. I am very fortunate in that my job entails travelling a great deal into the wilds of Shropshire every day, and with a little craft and cunning it is an easy matter for me to arrive at a certain place at just the right time for a bite and a dabble.

Many anglers probably consider an hour not worth tackling up for, but I have had some wonderful catches between one and two o'clock. One such instance came when my firm installed some machinery at Bishops Castle. Very intricate machinery it was, so intricate that I guessed it would probably need a few visits from the service man before everything settled down.

I rubbed my hands at the prospect, for Bishops Castle, in case you do not know, is practically next door to Walcot Lakes. What's more, my guess was proved right; I did make and still do make regular calls there—all timed so that I arrived late in the morning and, if the machines co-operated, was away and having my sandwiches and flask on the bank of Walcot West Lake shortly afterwards.

My first lunchtime session there was the best ever. I accounted for five tench, all like peas in a pod, each one I estimated at not more than 2-lb, but what beautiful fish they were and how they fought.

The technique I used for this first short session was simplicity itself. All I did was squeeze a piece of flake on to the hook and place—not cast—the tackle just over the reed beds. Then I hastily mixed a couple of handfuls of heavy groundbait, cast it in near the float and sat back waiting whilst I ate my lunch.

Fishing as near the reeds as possible seemed to be the technique for Walcot tench but I must confess that

I have never had another lunch hour like that first one. Sometimes I have had two tench, with an odd roach or two, but last year I never saw a sign of a tench. Neither can I hope for much improvement during this season. The machines have now settled down and trips to Bishops Castle are all too rare.

I must confess to a little lunch time poaching too, mainly on that wonderful trout stream the Onny. Imagine sitting on a bridge on a sunny day



'As alike as peas in a pod'

watching the trout lazily basking in the clear sparkling water. Not a sound to be heard, and there in the van not two yards away is a full set of fishing tackle!

Believe me the temptation is very, very strong and I must admit that I succumbed above once.

One day I really got the Onny's trout queuing up for chrysalides. I had eaten my lunch, and seeing the trout I decided to have a bit of fun with the remains of the previous week-end's maggots. The trout really went for them and I was amazed at the number that seemed to appear from nowhere. On this particular occasion all I did was tie a 14 hook to my reel line, put on a chry-

salis and lower the line—minus a rod—into the water.

I have always thought that trout were the greediest and easiest to catch fish, and this occasion proved it. They took the chrysalis like demons and the splashing and jumping that followed as I tried to land them made not the slightest difference. After each disturbance they were back again within minutes. I got the impression that I was feeding pigeons rather than fish.

I suppose I must have hooked two dozen in this manner—all very illegal of course, apart from the fact that I was poaching, but putting them all back unharmed left me with a reasonably clear conscience.

I have had some good lunch time sessions on the Severn too. My favourite pitch, one which I pass frequently all the year round, is the meadow below the bridge at Buildwas. The water just below the island is ideal for ledgering and of course there isn't much time to use any other method. I remember one day there particularly because I got quite frustrated trying to pour myself a cup of tea from the flask. Every time I picked up the flask, bang would go the rod tip and by the time I put the flask down and struck I was too late. Then I would cast in again, put the rod down, pick up the flask, and bang would go the rod with a repeat performance of a missed bite. Eventually I let the chub feed on my cheese while I drank my tea.

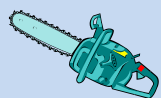
Yes, I enjoy my lunch time fishing, though I must admit I often suffer with indigestion afterwards.

## Big Tench for Match Angler

A single maggot on a tiny No. 20 hook tied to a 2-lb line—that was the frail tackle that D. Hinett of Solar Works A.S. used in a battle with a big tench hooked during a match at Walcot Lakes.

His reward for skilful angling was a fine 3-lb 11-oz specimen—the biggest tench taken from Walcot this season.





# Fisheries report



The Fisheries Work party has carried out work at the following fisheries during June;

<b>River Avon</b>	<b>Work done</b>	<b>June date</b>
Pensham1-5	Strimmed pegs and cut path through vegetation in downstream wooded area.	2
Pershire R/Bank	Strimmed pegs.	10
Evesham Common Rd	Strimmed pegs.	10
Cleeve Prior	Strimmed pegs.	11
Bredon	Strimmed pegs.	18
Salford Priors	Strimmed pegs.	26
<b>River Severn</b>		
Severn Stoke 3 & 4	Strimmed pegs.	4
Danery	Strimmed pegs, dug out steps and strimmed path along top of bank.	4
Grimley	Strimmed pegs.	9
Arley Harbour Inn 1 & 2	Strimmed pegs and dug out platforms and steps	11
Ripple	Strimmed pegs and dug out platforms and steps	16
Birds Meadow	Strimmed pegs and dug out platforms and steps	16
Arley LB 3-6	Strimmed and dug out pegs and steps.	18
Newhalls Meadow	Strimmed and dug out pegs, trimmed trees and removed fallen tree from river.	23
Ladyham	Strimmed and dug out pegs, trimmed trees and removed fallen tree from river.	25
Apley	Put up 'No cars past this point' signs in upstream car park and field entrances to upstream meadows to prevent members driving vehicles across fields to river bank.	26
Ribbesford	Strimmed and dug out pegs and steps and trimmed trees.	30
<b>River Anker</b>		
Bolehall	Strimmed pegs and cut back reeds and lillies in water around them.	20
<b>Pools</b>		
Mythe	Cut path from car park to Birds Meadow	16





Cutting a path through the vegetation under the trees at Pensham



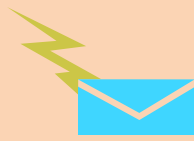
Trying to find a peg in Birds Meadow

Note: We cut a track from the car park alongside Mythe Pool (access via Ripple) to Birds Meadow. This provides alternate foot access to Birds Meadow due to the poor state of the access track down from the garden centre on the A38.



It was a wet wellie day at Newhalls Meadow, but we got the tree out of the river.





# Readers' letters



If you have any items, thoughts, issues you want to air in the BAA news, please email it to [baajnw@btinternet.com](mailto: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,

I came across this strange setup upstream at Grimley today (Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June). You will see that someone has taken time to write on it and fix it with a rope also they put bricks for a foot rest. Not sure if the photo shows it but clearly you cannot fish from it there is a fallen tree on the water etc. Has any of our members got some ideas?

Colin Townsend (Bailiff & Fisheries Team)

We were fishing at Ripple on Saturday (21/6/14), when suddenly there was a seal doing its thing in my swim. It appeared to be moving downstream, but who knows? It looked fat and healthy, so I guess the fish stocks are being depleted!

Albert Baker

*Ed; have you reported the sighting to the Environment Agency? 0800 80 70 60.*



## PhD on grayling population genetics- need for sampling assistance

Dear members of the Birmingham Anglers Association,

I have started a PhD on "Assessing adaptive genetic variation for management and conservation of the European Grayling" that follows up with a previous genetic study of grayling in the UK (Dawnay et al 2011). As an attachment you find a description of the project. In order to do the work I am currently cooperating with anglers over the country that assist me with sampling grayling during this summer's season. The sampling process is quite simple and involves taking swabs from the mouth and the gills of the fish. I am supplying the sampling kits for people who want to participate. The Severn is on my list of rivers but unfortunately I haven't got a lot of participating anglers so far, so I thought you could possibly pass on my request for assistance to people that go fishing there?

My work highly depends on getting sufficient samples and I therefore appreciate every help with it.

Kind Regards,

Vanessa

### Attachment

#### **PhD project "Assessment of adaptive genetic variation for management and conservation purpose of European Grayling"**

I have started to work on my PhD project "Assessment of adaptive genetic variation for management and conservation of European Grayling", jointly funded by Manchester University and the Grayling Research Trust, last year in September.

The objective of the study is to assess genetic variation of immune relevant genes within different Grayling populations in the UK. A previous genetic study funded by the GRT and conducted at Bangor University found strong differentiation of Grayling populations in the UK, which can be mainly grouped into four geographic areas of origin (Dawnay et al., 2011). In this study neutral genetic markers, which have no known function have been used, as it has been the common method in population genetics until recently. With new and more cost effective sequencing technologies it is now possible to sequence coding genes on a large scale. Variation of coding genes is more informative as it is more likely to represent adaptations to environmental conditions. My first question is therefore whether adaptive variation of grayling in the UK corresponds to the neutral variation earlier described or if adaptations to local environmental conditions happen on a smaller scale. This is important for management practices like stocking in order to enhance the probability of survival of introduced fish and to avoid counterproductive effects if maladapted introduced fish mix with native stocks.

The adaptive variation will then be compared to environmental factors like bacterial diversity, temperature and pollution in order to understand how populations respond to environmental conditions. That is important for effective conservation strategy because the potential of a species to adapt to a changing environment is crucial for its persistence, especially in the context of climate change and other ecosystem alterations due to human activities that are rapidly taking place. To identify where demographic constraints like low population sizes or environmental stress prevent a population from responding to environmental changes is therefore helpful to improve conditions.



At the moment, I am planning the sampling of grayling during the coming summer season, starting in June. I cannot do a lot of sampling myself and therefore depend on anglers contributing samples to the project. The procedure is very simple. I am taking swabs from the mouth and probably the skin to get DNA material. Additionally I require a fork length measurement of the fish. The rivers I am interested in sampling are the following: Yorkshire Derwent, Ure, Pickering Beck, Wylfe, Dee, Irfon, Severn, Wye, Clyde, Eden, Itchen, Aire, Dove and Hampshire Avon.

If you are interested in assisting in sampling grayling in any of these rivers during this summer, I would be happy to send you a sampling kit with the necessary material. I highly appreciate every help!

Please contact me at: [jana.v.huml@stu.mmu.ac.uk](mailto:jana.v.huml@stu.mmu.ac.uk)



## New online list identifies anglers who didn't buy Rod Licences



### A new prosecutions list identifies the anglers who didn't buy rod licences

Prosecutions list at [www.anglingtrust.net/prosecutions](http://www.anglingtrust.net/prosecutions)

The Angling Trust and Environment Agency are urging anglers to renew their rod licence or risk appearing on a new list identifying people who have been caught fishing illegally published on the Angling Trust's website at [www.anglingtrust.net/prosecutions](http://www.anglingtrust.net/prosecutions).



Mark Lloyd, the Angling Trust's Chief Executive, said: "We are happy to help with this initiative. All law-abiding anglers pay for the Environment Agency's fisheries service which does a great job improving fish stocks and funding angling development projects. We support the Environment Agency taking a tough line with those who cheat on their fellow anglers. We hope this list will be helpful to clubs and fisheries in identifying licence cheats. Every angler fishing in freshwater must buy a licence."

The Prosecution List is published around the middle of each month with the previous month's prosecutions. This data is provided periodically by the Environment Agency, and only refers to prosecutions of anglers that were conducted by courts in England in the month stated.

# Match Reports

**If you want to report the results of a contest you have organised on BAA waters, please email details.**

Blue Ball AC

Sunday 8th June

Uckinghall Pool

		<b>lbs</b>	<b>ozs</b>	<b>drms</b>
1st	Paul Mason	5	10	8
1st	Glyn Price Hunt	5	10	8
3rd	Andrew Wedgbrow	3	2	0
4th	Steve Morris	3	1	0

Catches included a large tench of 5lb 5oz, the other fish were mainly bream.

Report from - Brian Marsh

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286 Companions AC  
Annual

Sunday 22nd June

Nordley Pool 2

		<b>lbs</b>	<b>ozs</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	D Gumbley	19	8
2 <sup>nd</sup>	D Mills	15	10
3 <sup>rd</sup>	J Smith	11	3
4 <sup>th</sup>	T Edkins	9	5

Report from - Dave Gumbley