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B.A.A.NEWS

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

January 2012

Happy New year

Fisheries on the Buzz – see Fisheries report

Zander on mackerel – see Fishing news

Safe & unsafe rigs – see page 18

Executive Committee needs you!

The BAA Executive Committee is at its lowest number in the history of the Association and urgently needs volunteer members.

So if you want to be involved in the running of the club, decisions about its future and are available on the evening of the first Thursday every month, please contact John Williams at BAA HQ (01562 882116).

John will give you more information on Executive Committee membership and assist you in joining.

Fishing news

Fladbury 23rd December

A great way to end the year 3 barbel, 4 chub! Member Dave Holland with a barbel weighing 6lbs. Merry Christmas!!!

Happy Boxing Day

Hi, this was the best fish of seven barbel and five chub caught at Fladbury on 13mm pellet on Boxing Day.
Rob Holland

Winter summary

Dear Fellow Members

To oblige the request for photographs of a variety of species caught on BAA waters, I offer these three photographs. The fish are not monsters, but more than enough to delight on any cold, damp winter's day.

The perch (yes, it is a bit pale !) weighed 2lb 9oz and was caught on float-fishing maggots at Coppice Lake in mid-December, whereas the chub weighed 3lb 10oz and was caught on luncheon meat on Christmas Day, fishing at Nafford. That was a quiet session! I just fished for two hours in the afternoon, and also caught a barbel at 6lb 8oz. Now, that's what I call "real" Christmas presents.

My other picture is of a more unusual species, and I attach my photograph as it may assist someone with species identification. It is, of course, a salmon parr, which I caught at Blackstone in October. I am (I might add, diplomatically) aware of the fact that catching salmon requires an EA Licence for migratory fish (salmon and sea trout), and that this little fella has the potential to embark upon its epic journey to the sea. If you catch one in error, please treat it with great care and put it back gently.

Happy New Year

Tim Gilson

The ultimate sign

This one has to be a good one to end the ‘Spot that sign’ series on.

It has been completely devoured by the Tree.

Taken over-looking Chadbury Weir.

Regards,

Colin T.

Who said zander only feed at dawn or dusk and don't take sea baits?

Birmingham angler Rob Hawkswood purchased a day ticket to fish for pike at Pensham. Three pegs over the stile into the Coppice area and an hour into the session at about 10 o'clock, Rob baited up with an 8 to 9 inch joey mackerel ledgered hard on the bottom. It was only in for a few minutes when his bait runner screamed off, he hit into what he thought was a jack pike but to his surprise it was a hard fighting 8½lb zander.

Rob also had pike during the same session and said that he will now be using his day ticket to get £5 off a full membership card and will definitely be fishing more BAA waters this year.

Regards,

Colin T.

Fishing news record

fish/catcher	weight	location	method	BAA News edition
Barbel				
Stephen Mayo	14lb 7oz	Mid Severn	10m DD ellipse pellet, hair rig 12 hook, hemp & pellet groundbait.	July 2011

Big John	14lb	Fladbury	2 x 8mm hair rigged halibut pellets on 12 hook with boilies & pellets in PVA bag on hook	Nov 2011
Barry Hope	13lb	Broadwas		Oct 2011
Steve Hewitt	12lb 4oz	Wasperton		July 2011
Lee Wilkes	10lb 10oz	Arley	SBS Baits Frankfurter hooker.	July 2011
Richard Edwards	10lb 4oz	Fladbury		Nov 2011
Richard Edwards	10lb 3oz	Fladbury		Nov 2011
Reece Wilkes	9lb 7oz	Arley		Oct 2011
Dave Mantle	9lb 4oz	Highley		Nov 2011
Peter Niblett	9lb	Nafford	Hair rigged pellet.	Oct 2011
Phil Milnethorpe	9lb	Stanley Waters		Nov 2011
Kevin Wilson	8lb 8oz	Stanford Bridge		Nov 2011
Tim Gilson	6lb 8oz	Nafford		Jan 2012
Dave Holland	6lb	Fladbury		Jan 2012

Bream

Graham Cole	8lb 13oz	Birds Meadow		Nov 2011
Colin Townsend	8lb 8oz	Severn Stoke	8m halibut pellet hair rig on 10 hook. 2m halibut pellet & brown crumb feeder.	Aug 2011
Pete Jones	7lb 8oz	Birds Meadow	Magic Black ground bait feeder, small worm and red maggot on hook	Dec 2011
Oli Johnson's Dad	7lb 5oz	Fladbury	Double 6mm elipse pellet	Dec 2011
Oli Johnson	6lb	Fladbury	Double 6mm elipse pellet	Dec 2011
Shawn Townend	5lb 8oz	Stubbs Pool	Mainline Cell boilies	Dec 2011

Common Carp

Stan Kovachev	34lb 2oz	Coppice		July 2011
Phil Wood	26lb 4oz	Coppice	Mid water boilie.	June 2011
Carl Gerroni	24lb 7oz	Nordley 4		June 2011
Jack Parkes	23lb 5oz	Coppice		April 2011
Kevin Smith	21lb	Coppice		Oct 2011
Daniel Ambrose	20lb	Coppice		June 2011
Will Peace	18lb	Worcester Canal, Alvechurch		Sep 2011
Kevin Smith	17lb	Coppice		July 2011

Mirror Carp

Steve Middleton	31lb plus	Coppice		June 2011
Brendon Almquest	31lb	Coppice		Nov 2011
Curtis Holdom	26lb 2oz	Coppice		April 2011
Greeny	24lb	Coppice		Oct 2011
Keith Jones	19lb 8oz	Nordley 1		May-11

Chub

Tim Gilson	3lb 10oz	Nafford	Luncheon meat	Jan 2012

Perch

Tim Gilson	2lb 9oz	Coppice	Float fished maggot	Jan 2012

Pike

Jonathan Harcourt	18lb 7oz	Fladbury	Wobbled dead bait (smelt).	Oct 2011
Neil Walker	13lb 9oz	Fladbury	Paternostered sardine	Dec 2011
Tom George	13lb 8oz	Fladbury	Lamprey dead bait	Dec 2011

Tench

Cliff Townsend	6lb 4oz	Mythe Pool	Red maggot block end feeder.	Nov 2011
Tim Gilson	4lb 3oz	Apperley		Oct 2011

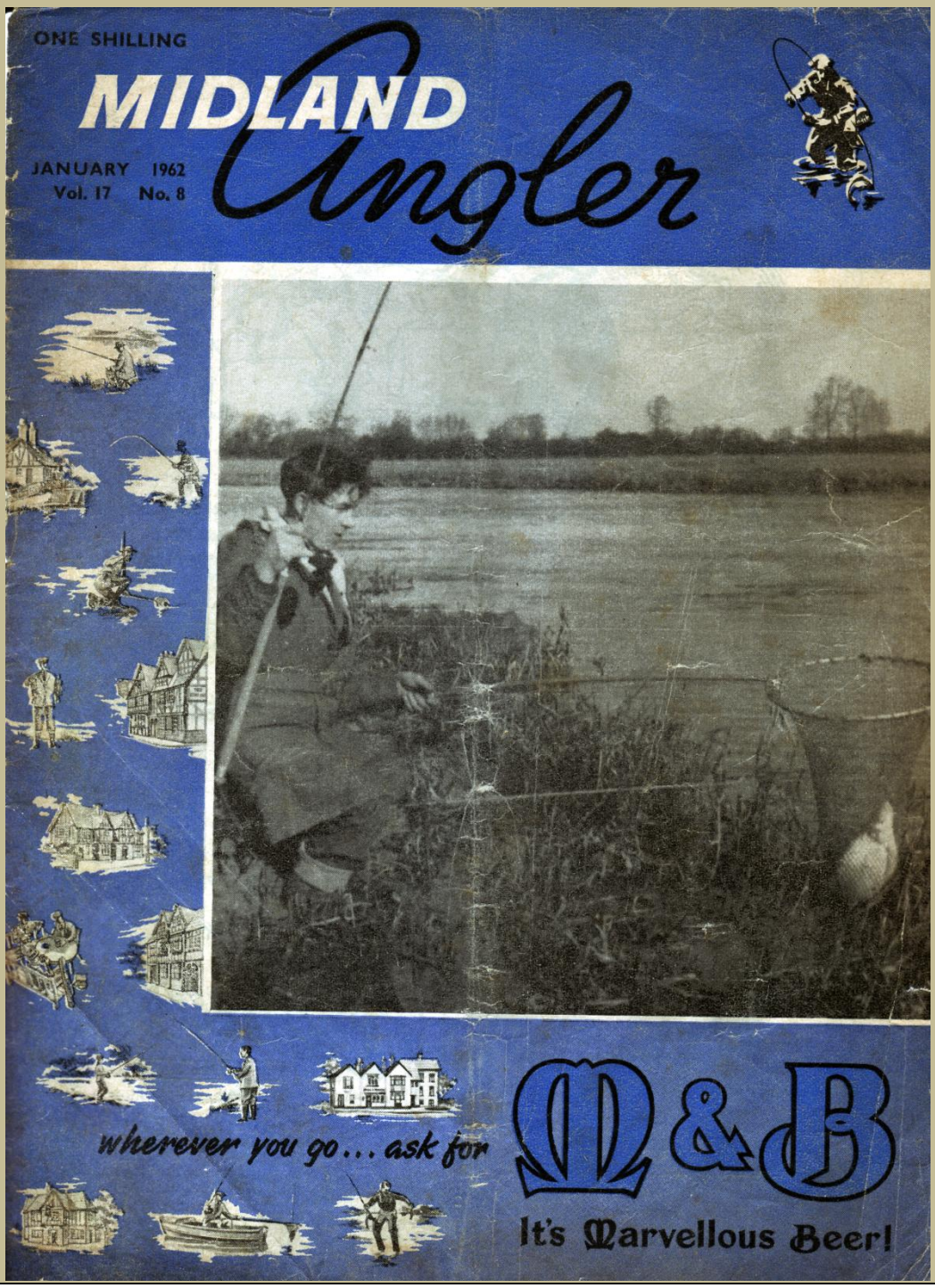
Zander

Rob Hawkswood	8lb 8oz	Pensham	Ledgered mackerel	Jan 2012

Extracts from the Archive

Midland Angler

During the 1950s and 60s, the BAA published the monthly Midland Angler magazine, price one shilling (5p). As this is the January 2012 edition of the BAA News, copied below are extracts from the 50 year old January 1962 edition of the Midland Angler.



The first extract covers the early days of barbel on the Severn, an article written by a BAA member.

The Trend Towards Barbel

by S. DONALD STONE

There is no doubt that during the past ten years barbel fishing has been attracting more attention from anglers. At one time comparatively few fishermen set out deliberately to catch this species, probably because of the fact that the barbel's distribution was so localised. The only opportunity most of them had was during their annual holiday when they were able to travel to one of the more noted barbel streams. And, once bitten, they invariably went back season after season.

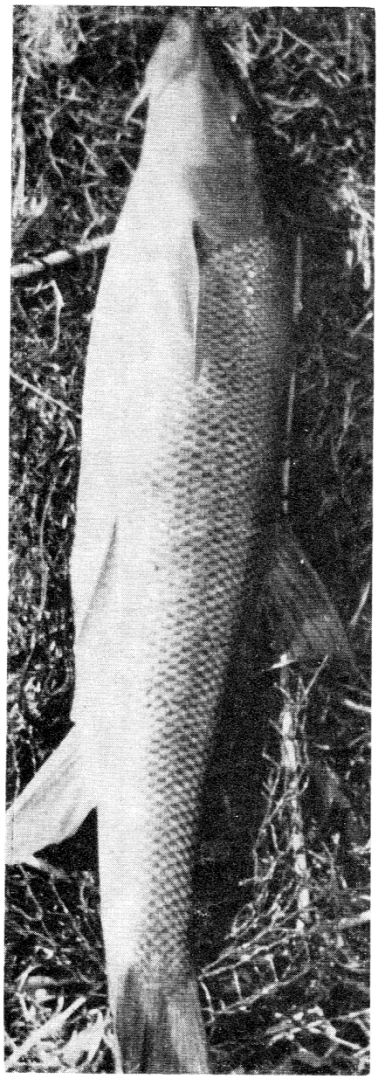
In contrast, anglers in the south of England are more fortunate. The Thames, Kennet, Hampshire Avon and Stour, all fairly close to hand, are all capable of producing double figure barbel and collectively provide the best barbel fishing anywhere in the country.

The increased interest in barbel has resulted in Yorkshire rivers such as the Ouse, Swale, Wharfe, Nidd and Derwent also receiving specialist attention. As a result, many fine fish have been taken there during the past few seasons, the best a fine specimen of 11½-lb. caught on the Derwent a short time ago.

Anglers in the Midlands are not so lucky; the few who have caught barbel either had them from the Thames or during Summer holidays down South. For despite the fact that barbel were introduced into the Severn in 1955, in the hope that they would thrive and multiply, the Severn is still by no means a good barbel river.

I remember at the time of the experiment discussing with the Editor of the Midland Angler the prospects in store and expressing the opinion that, even if barbel found the Severn to their liking, it would not be worth while fishing for them seriously for at least ten years. By then, if all went well, the offspring of the original stock would have had time to grow to a reasonable size and their numbers would have increased substantially.

Since then there have been numerous reports of small barbel being caught on the Severn—obviously the offspring of the larger imported stock—so there is every hope that in four or five years time, it may be worth giving serious thought to a day's barbel fishing there.



In five years time barbel like this may oust the chub as match winners on the Severn.

When that time arrives many a local angler will be in for a shock—unless of course he has already sampled the fighting power of these game and sporting fish. And having got over the first pleasant surprise and, I hope, won his first barbel battle, he may be due for still more excitement. For barbel tend to shoal and if they can be tempted to feed a big bag usually follows.

Who knows, we may see the day when barbel oust chub as the match winning fish on the Severn and one of the big open matches at Bewdley or elsewhere is won by an angler who lands a hundred-weight of the bewhiskered beauties.

The day might even dawn when the Severn provides a record breaker for the species—a fish larger than the existing best-ever weight of 14-lb. 6-oz. For despite the fact that no one has ever caught a barbel bigger than the fish of that weight caught way back in 1888 by Mr. T. Wheeler from the Thames at Molesey, the record has since been equalled twice and bigger barbel, ineligible for the record, have been caught accidentally by salmon anglers.

At least two barbel over 16-lb. have been foul-hooked by salmon men on the Hampshire Avon. Another of 15-lb. 12-oz. was caught by the late Mr. M. Hayter whilst spinning for salmon at Christchurch on the last day of the season in 1943.

All of which goes to show that barbel over 15-lb. do exist and that the Severn in due course might be quite capable of producing a fish of that majestic quality.

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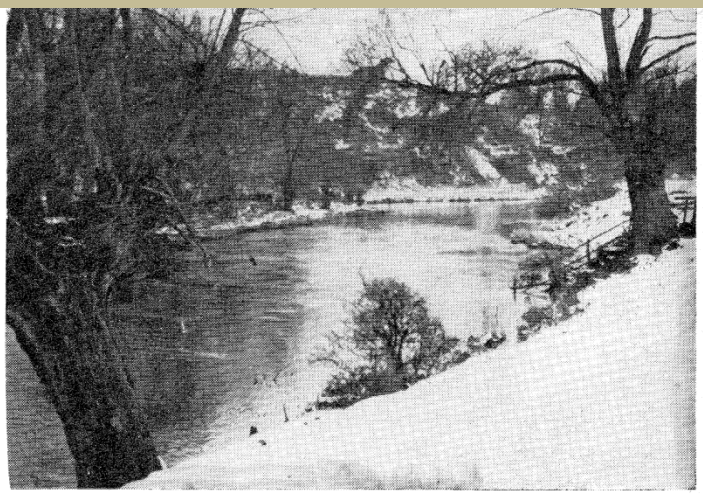
The following extract is an article by guest writer Tag Barnes on winter fishing

TAG BARNES' *SPECIMEN HUNTER'S DIARY*



Hook a good fish in conditions like this and all thoughts of discomfort soon vanish.

Making The Most Of Winter

ALL-ROUND anglers are never short of excuses to account for a fishless day. In Summer we attribute the lack of bites to high temperatures, bright sunlight and the like; in Winter the temperature is too low, the river too full, or an overnight frost has put the damper on sport. There are dozens of different excuses, many of them quite valid, but two recent incidents have given me cause for reflection on the vexed question of why fish refuse to feed.

The first occurred on the River Idle when my club fished for the George Hallum cup—a trophy presented each season for the biggest roach caught. The morning of this competition was anything but encouraging. A week of mild weather had given way to a sharp overnight frost and no-one rated their chances very high. Nevertheless, with members spread out over two miles of water it was reasonable to expect that someone would be lucky enough to catch a fish or two.

The result, after four hours' fishing, was two roach weighing 10-oz. and 6-oz and one small chub. No one else had had a bite and to a man they were all prepared to swear that the sudden frost was responsible. They were in fact relieved to find this convenient loop-hole to slip through!

But over complacency was short lived when we learned that two other fishermen fishing higher upstream had caught close on 40-lb. between them. Our only consolation then was that they had been fishing the deepest hole in the river, which proved to be the case, and that the fish had congregated there. Incidentally the 10-oz. roach was caught by one of the juvenile members, David Thompson, which again only goes to show!

The second incident occurred when I paid a return visit to the chub run on the River Wharfe which I described last month. Two days prior to my first trip the first snow of winter had fallen—and thawed—and after I had motored through thick frost I arrived to find the river bank-high and a chocolate brown. The temperature was 38 degrees and the river, as someone once said, was "as choppy and bumpy as a Worksop main road".

I decided to ledger the chub run and let the bait work right in under the bank—a scheme which cost me eight leads! By 3.45 p.m. my total catch was one small chub that had accepted a lobworm, and I was tempted to pack up convinced that too many factors were against me,

My 'last cast' was with a piece of crust to an area of water on the far side of the river that on my previous visit had been dry sand. It was now covered with about two-feet of comparatively slow water, and having cast into it I sat frozen and disinterested, staring at the rod tip held at 90 degrees to keep the line free of the intervening current.

Even when the rod first bobbed I only struck half-heartedly; I was convinced that the 'bite' was the result of rubbish fouling the line or a shifting lead. But all feeling of cold left me as I pulled a lively chub through the fast centre flow and slipped it over the net. It was the first of five fish between 1-lb. and 3½-lb. landed in twenty minutes. The best one was netted in almost total darkness. The remainder, although not big, all gave me plenty to think about and I appreciated their last minute co-operation.

Most anglers maintain that Winter fishing is not worth the discomfort that goes with it, and I must confess that from the time I peered through my bedroom window at 5.30 a.m. on that frost-bound Sunday to the moment I hooked my first fish I was almost prepared to share their view, But as I pulled those chub from the far side of the river through the speeding, churning current, and realised another problem had been solved, all thought of discomfort vanished.

I now know where fish can be expected on that stretch of the Wharfe under entirely different river conditions. I also know that although I have solved two problems, there will always remain that last missing piece of the jig-saw that will continue to drag me from bed in all weathers and at all times of the year.

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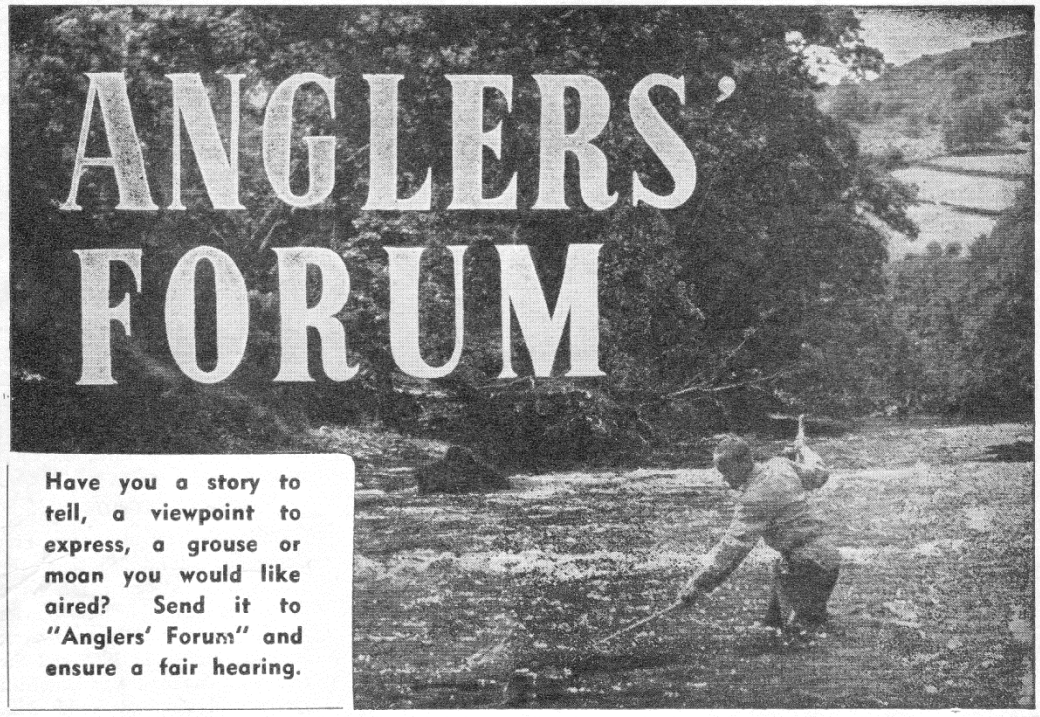
Just to show that nothing much changes, copied below is the Anglers Forum, the forerunner of the readers' letter section.



20 Years on the Stratford Canal

In the December issue Mr. T. E. Judds complained that the cleaning out and other restoration work now being carried out on the Stratford-on-Avon canal would lead to him losing the peace and solitude and freedom from interference by passing boats that he now enjoys.

He also said that his days of good catches of bream and tench will be lost, and concludes by asserting that anglers are in for a 'rude awakening' when restoration work is completed.

How anyone can write in this mean and selfish manner is beyond me—unless they are ignorant of the full facts that led to the Stratford Canal being saved from destruction for all time.

For Mr. Judd's benefit, and for any other readers who also deplore the dredging and other work now being carried out, I would like to give a few facts from my own experience on this canal over the last twenty years.

The fishing there, especially in the last thirteen miles towards Stratford, has deteriorated every year. The gradual filling up with silt, decayed weeds etc. has now reached the stage when you are lucky to find two feet of water.

Big catches of tench and bream are now very rare because, due to the shallowness of the water, the angler is visible to the fish as soon as he gets to the canal side.

I would also like to remind Mr. Judds that if B.A.A. officials and boating interests had not put up a splendid fight to keep the canal open, the local council would have filled it in completely between Wooton Wawen and Stratford. Would my friend have enjoyed his peaceful days then?

I think we all owe a big 'thank you' to the men who are helping to restore the canal—including the boating enthusiasts.

When they have finished, and pass me by as I am sitting on the towpath, I will gladly raise my hat to them and say "thanks, mate, for saving the prettiest and finest little canal in the country."

'The White Owl'
Olton.

FISHING AT LICHFIELD

We have recently formed an angling club at our school, and should be grateful if you could let us know of any fishing within an area of about ten miles of Lichfield.

I hope I have not put you to any inconvenience, and the best of luck to your excellent journal.

David Wibon (aged 13)

Your best plan would be to joint the B.A.A. as a Junior member at a cost of six shillings a year.

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This would entitle you to fish the River Mease at Croxall and Harlaston, and the Trent at Alrewas, all of which are within reasonable distance of Lichfield.

You would also be able to fish in the Fazeley Canal at Whittington, a well-known tench water, Bodymoor Heath and other places. (Ed.)

A POUND WELL SPENT

As I sit by my fireside thawing out after a cold day's pike fishing, I think of the past twelve months and the fishing I have enjoyed on B.A.A. waters.

First of all I think of the Teme at Ludlow and Ashford Bowdler; my friends and I had many enjoyable days there at the beginning of the year. Wet fly fishing brought us grayling (so aptly named Queen of the River) as good as we have seen anywhere.

Trout too were caught on fly, though the best I saw was a brownie around the 2-lb. mark captured by ledgering a worm below the weir.

In the spring my week-ends were spent on the Banwy at Cyffronyd, the Clun at Broadward and Leintwardine, and the Severn at Caersws, all waters offering a day's satisfying trout fishing and scenery guaranteed to please.

But I think the happiest memories of the year are those of the Wye at Doldowlod. What a satisfying fishery this is! Three separate stretches provide the angler with a variety of fishing, from trout, dace and grayling in the fast rocky stretches to roach and hefty bronzed-backed chub in the steadier, tree-lined deeps. I spent a week's holiday there this year with my friends and we all agree it's Doldowlod for us again next year.

All these memories amount to one unquestionable fact; The best 20/- worth in your tackle shop is a B.A.A. Honorary Membership card.

J. Brennan,
Wolverhampton.

Is Slaythorpe Slaying Fish ?

Just across the River Trent from my home at Farndon there is a large power station, Slaythorpe by name, that sucks in huge amounts of river water. The water is syphoned into a reservoir—but it is not only water that finds its way there.

Numerous fish, including roach, perch, gudgeon, chub and even carp are sucked in via the intake pipes.

I was told the other day that among the Trent fish drawn into the power station reservior was a huge pike of 24-lb.

I shall be glad to know if anything is being done to stop still more fish being extracted from the Trent.

I would also like to know the best spot for piking near Farndon, what the record pike taken from Farndon gravel pits weighed, who caught it and in what year.

Mr.—
26, Linton Close,
Farndon,
Newark.

The writer of this letter—a youngster judging from the handwriting—omitted to sign his name. Perhaps one of our Notts. readers can provide the information he seeks. (Ed.)

AN ICY EEL

You may be interested to know that whilst fishing at Fladbury on a day when the Avon was fringed with ice I caught a small eel about eight inches in length.

I can only presume that it had been disturbed from its winter slumber in the mud by recent dredging carried out there.

I have certainly never heard of eels being caught during winter in near-zero temperatures, but perhaps other anglers may have had similar experiences.

J. N. Nichols.
Weoley Castle.

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2/6

Fisheries report

Due to Christmas and the New Year, the Fisheries work party ceased work in early December and plan to recommence activities during early January. The work carried out since the last report is;

Wick – wooden foot bridge repaired

Charlton – further clearance of swims in meadows 4, 7 and 8.

Blackstone – 1-2 tons of stone put down on access lane.

As an addition to the usual report I am taking a retrospective look at work party activities in the 1950s with photographs and letter provided to the BAA by Gordon Rae in 2009.

Ready for the off on the bus to the Teme in 1957

Mac Holland directing operations

Cutting out, Gordon Rae on right

Reg Irons

Chain Gang tools

8/6/09.

J.Williams
BAA Ltd
106 Icknield Port Rd
Birmingham
B16 0AA

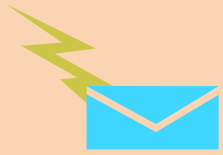
Dear Mr Williams,

As mentioned in my 'phone conversation with you earlier this morning. Photographs enclosed of members of the "Cutting out" parties that used to travel to various stretches of BAA water,each Sunday morning. Led by Mac Holland,we used to do a good days work,clearing the banks,by bringing out fallen trees from the rivers. Also doing anything else that would make the pitches more accessible to our BAA members. The days always enjoyed. Hail,rain,or sunshine. Our reward,a good chin wag,and a bottle of beer during the lunch break. Then home on the coach dead tired,but feeling that we had achieved something.
As I said,the photographs are old,so they are smaller in size,and quality. Keep,or dispose of them as you see fit.

My BAA membership began in the 1950s. My first club was the College Arms in Sparkhill. The pub is still there on the corner of Shaftsmoor lane,and Stratford Rd. I used to live close by in Knowle Rd. I worked at Joseph Lucas,Forman's Rd for 42 years,and I was on the committee of the fishing club there for many years. I was instrumental in the formation of the Gilbertstone A.C. This was based on the estate where I lived in South Yardley. I was Chairman there for quite some time.
After early retirement in 1988,I moved south,and enjoyed my fishing at Wootton Hall,Wootton Wawen. Also Stratford-u-Avon.
With infirmity starting to interfere,I passed on my cherished rods, reels,etc: to a younger person. I still enjoy standing on a bridge, and looking down into the water,and remembering the draw,and the weigh in. Those were the days. Incidentally,I was on the bridge at Bidford on Avon last summer. There in the shallows were ten carp. Not one of them was under 8lb the biggest around 12lb. No tall story,believe me.

I waffle on Mr Williams. All success to the BAA for the future.

My best,
Gordon Rae.



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.

Congratulations to Lynn Dyson for winning the 2012 handbook photo competition, somehow I think it will attract more new members than runner up Brendan's picture, sorry Brendan. Forgive the pun but it looks like it was a clean sweep Mrs Dyson.

Graham Beck.

Dear Sir,

I have to let you know how disappointed I am with the choice of picture for the new BAA 'Guide to waters'. Of all the pictures that must've been submitted this is the best specimen you could find? I like to believe that the BAA is a civilised and responsible organisation, not a laddish gaggle of leerers. Please leave the smut to other less wholesome publications.

Regards

J. C. Stubbs

Morning all,

Yet again a brilliant issue of the newsletter.

With the inclusion of the archive (and despite the fact I have never fished the venue it was an excellent inclusion) I am looking forward to reading the guides in the future.

With reports on matches and what is being caught and where, I spend the first week of most months now checking if the news section has been updated.

This obviously takes hard work to put together and is a fitting inclusion for what is still one of the country's biggest (if not indeed the biggest) clubs.

Well done! Pete Lewis.

Dear All,

Firstly Happy New Year to you all, hope it's a good one. Last summer I spent all my time barbeling on the Underdale section in Shrewsbury. Only saw 1 other angler (non member but had day ticket), the fishing was slow, but did managed several barbel over 9lbs, 1 chub of 6lb and loads of bream from 2lb to around 4lb. One thing I did find out, there's a misconception that the BAA no longer have the section above the Telford Way Bridge, I put several people right on this, even showing them what was left of the sign at the top end of the stretch. There's evidence of locals fishing down there, only in a few pegs, but as I said, I only met one. A few other locals turned up for a walk and seemed 'horrified' that a full member was fishing there now AND willing to check cards, maybe this put some off? It's the first time I've actually fished down there and really enjoyed the peace and quiet and having the stretch pretty much to myself.

Kindest Regards, Steve Holland.

Ed: Thanks, I'll make sure that Fisheries know about the signs issue there.

Dear Sir,

I have just joined the BAA and am enjoying the waters very much. I do however have to say the Stour section is not so beautiful. Unfortunately the amount of rubbish on the bank and floating in the water was totally unsightly. It is only ten minutes by car from where I live and was one of main reasons for joining. I would hate to loose the privilege to fish it because of this laziness of others. I just thought I would mention it in case no one else has.

Yours sincerely, Chris Harper.

Ed: Thanks for your views on litter; it's an ongoing problem at some of our fisheries. I spoke to one of our bailiffs who covers the Stour about your letter. He had also seen the litter in question and believes it was plastic bottles etc which had been washed down stream rather than litter left by anglers on our water.

I recently spend an afternoon (unsuccessfully) spinning for pike on the Avon at Wasperton along the middle part of the fishery. I found three swims that were badly littered, obviously left by anglers. I always carry a few bin liners in my car and filled one with the litter, took it home and put it in my wheelie bin. I know we shouldn't have to do this, but you can also take an alternate view that all the other swims at Wasperton were pristine, which says to me that the majority of our members care about our fisheries and don't leave litter.

What we can do is keep this issue current, keep sending me emails and pictures about litter issues which I will publish. Maybe the message will slowly get home that the BAA can't clear up anglers litter and everyone has to take responsibility and leave a swim as they found it, litter free. So thanks for your email.

Hi,

I'm writing in respect to the pictures from Fladbury where two pike are shown, one being Neil's at a stated 13lbs 9oz (fair play) and the other from Tom stating a 13.5Ibs (to which its looking more like a 6-7Ibs). Why oh why does this keep happening? Does the editor not realise the size of fish some anglers are saying is way over the top and do not deserve to be put in a news letter? The most obvious to date is the one that sticks out a mile is the July news letter where an angler states his common carp from Coppice lake is 34Ib 2oz to which I believe several members complained about at only being a 20lber, yet it still reads has a lake record in the stats on the fishing news record. Maybe the editor could put a note in next months news letter telling anglers to have there scales calibrated of simply buy a new set that actually reads weight correctly before sending such tosh off to the BAA news letter.

Ed: On initial view Neil's pike does look bigger that Tom's. But looking carefully at both pictures you will notice that Neil is holding his fish out away from his body and the picture was taken with the camera close to the fish. This has the effect of exaggerating the size of the fish compared to the person holding it.

Tom is holding his pike close to his body and the camera was some distance away when the picture was taken (I cropped much of the surrounding landscape off the picture supplied). In this case the size of the fish compared to Tom is not distorted.

Also using Mona's scale, an old (1918) way of working out the weight of a pike from its length a 13lb pike is about 35 inches in length, a 6lb pike 28inches. I think both fish look closer to 35 inches that 28.

The carp picture in the July issue resulted on one email querying the claimed weight not several.

The Fishing news section gives all members an opportunity to share their fishing experiences and the only pictures I have not included were some taken at what appeared to be after sunset at a fishery where night fishing is not permitted.

With regard to the Fishing news record, what I am planning to do is only keep entries on it for 12 months. This will give readers a view of what has been caught for the past year whilst keeping the list fresh and relevant.

Safe & unsafe rigs

Unsafe rigs

Periodically rigs are recovered at by our bailiffs and fisheries team. On examination a number of these rigs are considered to be unsafe.

The term unsafe rig means that if an angler looses a fish due to a line breakage there is a significant risk that the weight or feeder will stay attached to the fish preventing it getting rid of the hook and potentially causing it injury or death.

Pictures of a number or these rigs are shown below with an explanation of what makes them unsafe.

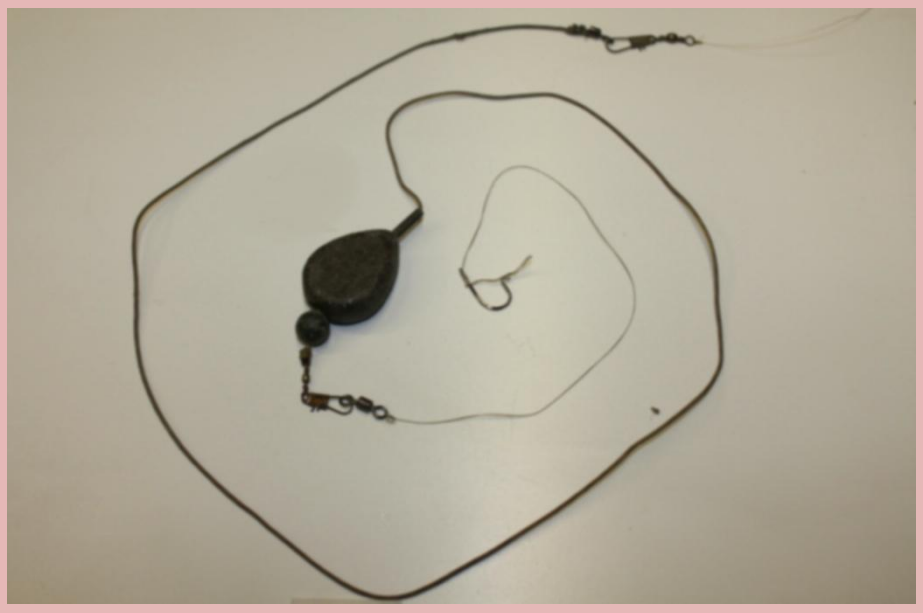


Figure 1

In figure 1, the weight is threaded onto a leader with a swivel at both ends. If after hooking a fish the main line breaks, the weight will be prevented from coming off the leader by the top swivel and stay attached to the fish via the hook length and leader. To make this rig safe, the main line should be tied direct to the leader and checked that the weight can easily slide over this knot. The hook length is also attached to the leader with to many fragile looking swivels and links, a single swivel should do the job

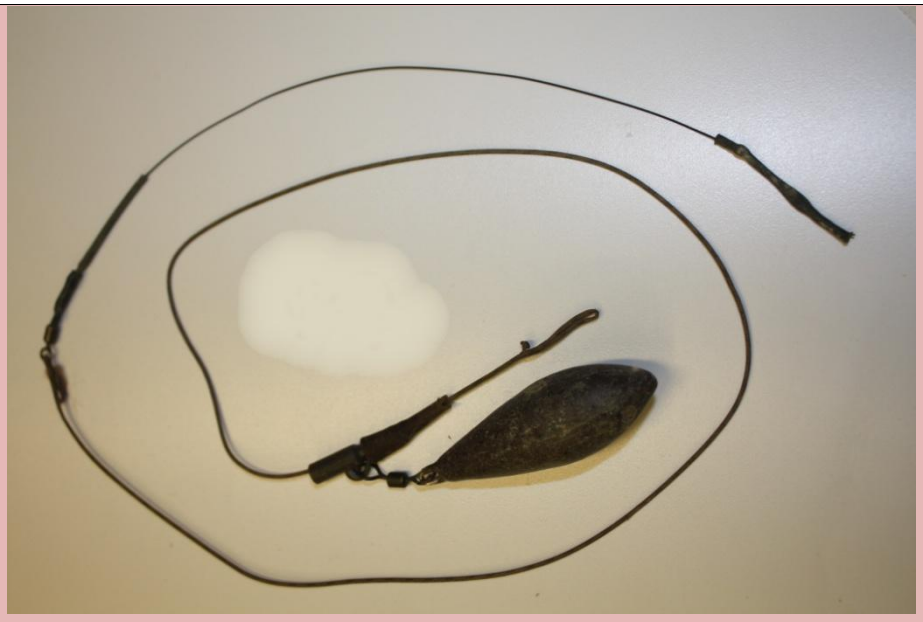


Figure 2

In figure 2, the weight is attached to the leader via a lead clip safety rig. In the event of a main line breakage the safety rig cannot come off the leader due to swivels and large knots at each end. If the weight fails to come off the safety clip, it will stay attached to the fish. To make this rig safe, the safety clip should be able to easily slide over the end of the leader attached to the main line.

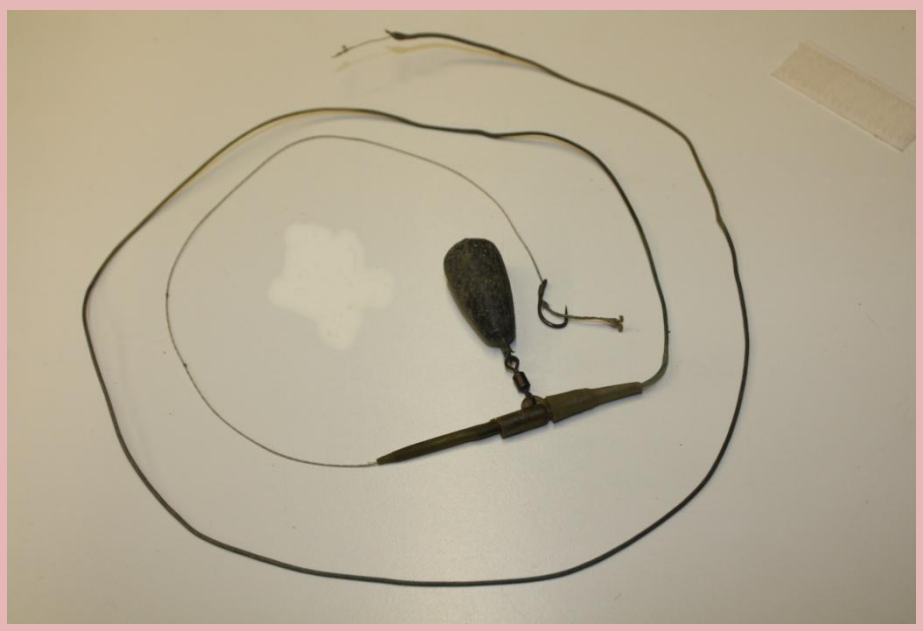


Figure 3

In figure 3 the rubber tube has been super-glued onto the safety lead clip, preventing the clip from working as designed and allowing the lead to be detached if snagged. To make this rig safe don’t glue the rubber tube onto the lead safety clip, or push the rubber tube on too hard.

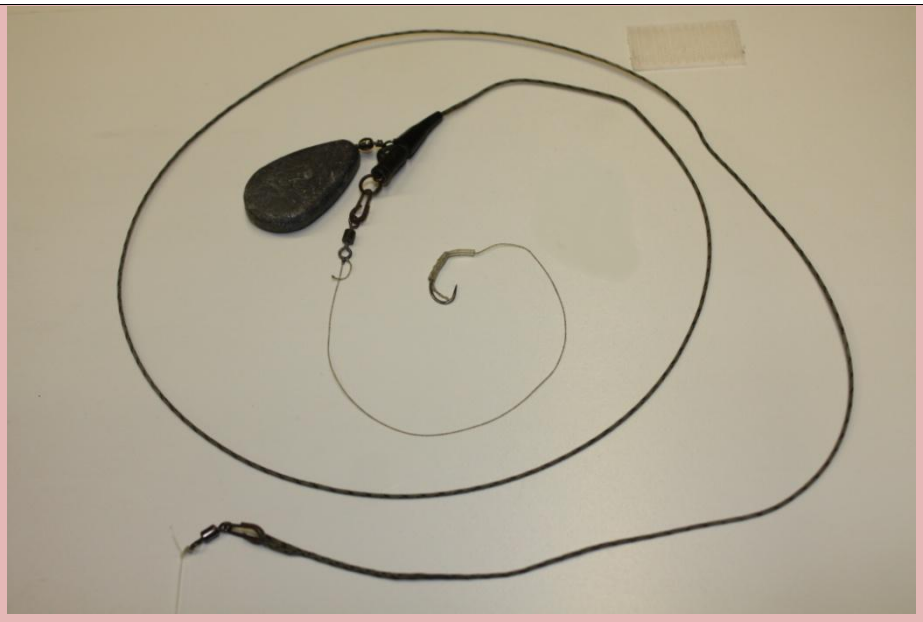


Figure 4

In figure 4, again the leader has a swivel both ends, preventing the safety clip from coming off the leader if the main line breaks and leaving the weight attached to the fish if the safety clip does not operate correctly. Again, to make this rig safe, tie the mainline direct to the leader with a small knot and check the safety rig will easily slide over.

Lost & Found

Member A Newsome reports that he has found some carp tackle left by an angler at Coppice Lake on the 15th December.

If you think it's your tackle please contact John Williams at BAA HQ (01562-882116), he will provide you with a contact telephone number for A Newsome.