


B.A.A. NEWS



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July 2012

2lb+ Severn roach

See Fishing news page 2

Executive Committee homeless

See Executive update page 8

New EA byelaws on taking fish

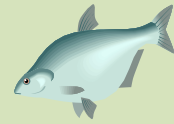
See pages 15-17

Cormorant control

See pages 21 – 24



Fishing news



Fish of the month – 2lb+ Danery roach



Hello All,
Had an eventful day at the Danery today, 28th of June 2012, managed to survive thunder, lightening & hail stones the size of walnuts to land my first ever barbel of 8lb 9oz on triple 8mm halibut pellets, fished over pellet, groundbait & hemp mix. I also landed this pretty impressive roach on the same tactics to 2lb 4oz, not bad going for someone who always sticks to Nordley & Coppice.

Regards

Andy Lea

First of the season



BAA,

I just thought I would share this picture with you taken on the first day of the 2012 river season at Ladyham on the River Severn. We arrived in the rain to find the river a good few feet up and on the rise. This fish was taken on my 3rd cast and came as my first fish of the season and took the scales to 6lb. It fell to a maggot/groundbait feeder cast tight in to the side. Despite seeing many bream role in the same spot during the day, unfortunately I caught no more.

Not a bad first fish of the season and sure beats the usual gudgeon!!!!

Cheers,

Ben Keen.

Fish from past sessions at Coppice



Hi,

As Coppice is closed for now, I thought I'd send some pictures from mine and Chris' previous sessions at Coppice for you to include in the next news letter.

The first picture is from an early spring session, my only fish of that day at 19lb.

The second picture is a 20lb mirror from not so long back!

The third picture caught by my fishing partner Chris Nunn, is reportedly the biggest fish that is/was in Coppice. The picture doesn't really do 'Arnie' justice; he weighed in at a whopping 38.6lb!!!! This was verified on 2 sets of scales!

We were both gutted to hear the news of the situation at Coppice and hope it will bounce back!

Regards,

Dave Smith

Fishing news record

for last 12 months

fish/catcher	lb	oz	location	method	edition
Barbel					
River Severn					
Steve Swain	13	5	Mid Severn	Pellet and feeder	April 2012
Steve Swain	12		Mid Severn	Halibut pellet hook bait on size 7 hook, pellet & hemp feeder	April 2012
Steve Swain	11		Mid Severn	Halibut pellet hook bait on size 7 hook, pellet & hemp feeder	April 2012
Brian Newstead	10	14	Holt Fleet	Single 14mm halibut pellet	May 2012
Reece Wilkes	9	7	Arley		Oct 2011
Dave Mantle	9	4	Highley		Nov 2011
Phil Milnethorpe	9		Stanley Waters		Nov 2011
Andy Lea	8	9	Danery	Triple 8mm halibut pellets fished over pellett, groundbait and hemp mix	July 2012
River Avon					
Chris Blunt	15	4	Fladbury	Double 11mm pellet	April 2012
Chris Blunt	14	1	Fladbury	Double 11mm pellet	April 2012
Big John	14		Fladbury	2 x 8mm hair rigged halibut pellets on 12 hook with boilies & pellets in PVA bag on hook.	Nov 2011
Richard Edwards	10	4	Fladbury		Nov 2011
Richard Edwards	10	3	Fladbury		Nov 2011
Steve Welland	10		Wasperton	Meat	April 2012
Peter Niblett	9		Nafford	Hair rigged pellet.	Oct 2011
Chris Blunt	8	12	Fladbury	Pellet	April 2012
Tim Gilson	6	8	Nafford		Jan 2012
Dave Holland	6		Fladbury		Jan 2012
David Johnson	5	1	Fladbury	12m bloodworm boilie, barbel bomb & hemp groundbait	Mar 2012
River Teme					
Barry Hope	13		Broadwas		Oct 2011
John Morgan	10	5	Stanford Bridge		April 2012
Kevin Wilson	8	8	Stanford Bridge		Nov 2011

Bream

River Severn

Graham Cole	8	13	Birds Meadow		Nov 2011
Colin Townsend	8	8	Severn Stoke	8m halibut pellet hair rig on 10 hook. 2m halibut pellet & brown crumb feeder.	Aug 2011
Pete Jones	7	8	Birds Meadow	Magic Black ground bait feeder, small worm and red maggot on hook.	Dec 2011
Ben Keen	6		Ladyham	Maggot/groundbait feeder	July 2012

River Avon

David Johnson	7	5	Fladbury	Double 6mm elipse pellet.	Dec 2011
Oli Johnson	6		Fladbury	Double 6mm elipse pellet.	Dec 2011

Pools

Darren Davies	6		Mythe Pool	Double sweetcorn with open end feeder	June 2012
Shawn Townsend	5	8	Stubbs Pool	Mainline Cell boilies.	Dec 2011
Kevin Smith	5		Coppice		May 2012
Kevin Smith	4	8	Coppice		May 2012
Kevin Smith	4		Coppice		May 2012

Common Carp

Pools

John Morgan	22	5	Coppice	Bottom fished boilie	June 2012
Kevin Smith	21		Coppice		Oct 2011
Jack Parkes	20	2	Coppice		April 2012
Kevin Smith	20		Coppice		May 2012
Kevin Smith	17		Uckinghall		June 2012

Canals

Will Peace	18		Worcester Canal, Alvechurch		Sep 2011
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Ghost Carp

Canals

John Morgan	24	8	Staffs & Worcs	Bottom fished boilie	June 2012
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Leather Carp

Canals

Steve Ridd	13	5	Trent & Mersey Canal, Fradley	Foul hooked when plugging for predators	Feb 2012
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Mirror Carp

Pools

Brendon Almquest	31		Coppice		Nov 2011
Michael Cross	31		Coppice	Single boilie	April 2012
John Morgan	29	11	Coppice	Zig rigged pop-up	June 2012
Greeny	24		Coppice		Oct 2011
Kevin Smith	20		Coppice	Boilie	April 2012
Kevin Smith	17		Coppice		May 2012

Chub

River Avon

Chris Blunt	4	12	Fladbury	Bread	April 2012
Tim Gilson	3	10	Nafford	Luncheon meat.	Jan 2012

Grayling

River Teme

Tim Gilson	1	0	Lindridge	Ledgered maggot	April 2012
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Perch

Pools

Tim Gilson	2	9	Coppice	Float fished maggot.	Jan 2012
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Pike

River Avon

Jonathan Harcourt	18	7	Fladbury	Wobbled smelt.	Oct 2011
Neil Walker	16	7	Fladbury	Paternostered sardine.	Feb 2012
Neil Walker	13	9	Fladbury	Paternostered sardine.	Dec 2011
Tom George	13	8	Fladbury	Lamprey dead bait.	Dec 2011

Roach

River Severn

Andy Lea	2	4	Danery	Triple 8mm halibut pellets fished over pellett, groundbait and hemp mix	July 2012
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Tench

Pools

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

Zander

River Avon

Rob Hawkswood 8 8 Pensham Ledgered mackerel. Jan 2012



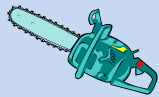
Executive update



Executive monthly meeting lock-out

The Executive Committee arrived at the venue used for the monthly meeting on Thursday 5th July, to find the doors locked and the business sold (Mount Pleasant United Working Men's Club, Reservoir Road, Birmingham). After much chatting in the car park and some head scratching, the meeting was cancelled.

The Management Committee is now looking for an alternative venue. If you know of somewhere suitable in the Birmingham area, please email or phone HQ with details (circa 30 members, 1 meeting per month from 7pm – 10pm).



Fisheries report



The cut-back of spring/summer growth vegetation around fishery pegs is ongoing, progress since the last edition is;

River Avon

Barton 1 & 2	Bidford LB
Evesham, Parks Farm &	Common Rd
Marlcliff A & B	Mythe Farm
Salford Priors	Wood End
Manor Farm, Wasperton 1 & 2	

River Severn

Arley RB Harbour Inn Meadow 2
Grimley 3-7
Ladyham
Ribbesford 1 & 2
Ripple
Severn Stoke 1-7

Due the extreme wet weather in June, the track alongside the River Avon at Wasperton has very deep ruts cut into it by angler's cars. We have cut back the grass over the ruts to make them more visible and the grass on either side of the track to widen it. This is to enable anglers to drive around the ruts, helping to prevent cars getting stuck and damaged and also to spread the track wear across a wider area.

Please be aware that the Fisheries Work Party is a small group of volunteers who have a huge area to cover and it's impossible to have every river venue prepared for the start of the season.



Archive extracts



Midland Angler

Copied below are two extracts from the September 1962 and September 1958 editions of the Midland Angler, the forerunner to the BAA News.

ROUND B.A.A. WATERS with JIM WHEAT

Jim's third visit to this tree-lined swim (right) resulted in a frantic hour with the chub.

BROADWAS

—A Leafy
Temeside Paradise



I HAD to make three trips to the B.A.A.'s fishery on the Teme before I weighed up this fascinating stretch of water. The first two involved a lot of wasted effort, for on each occasion I went with a few thought out theories that did not come up to expectations. Even on the third visit the only thing I was sure of was that the B.A.A. Handbook was right when it described this water as 'attractive'. It winds so much that there is much more room than first impressions are inclined to give. Four meadows (only one of them big) does not seem much, yet there is plenty of room; even a Sunday crowd seems to get lost there, probably because of the high banks and trees.

Broadwas looks a good chub stretch, and probably is. There are plenty of fast runs and long stretches that are not easy to fish because of the steep banks and overhanging trees but repay with perseverance. On my first visit I chose an attractive-looking 'chubby' spot and wasted a lot of time on it. The river there ran fast over some rocks and then turned sharply right under a huge tree. This was at the beginning of the third meadow, which is the largest of the four.

To me this looked just right for

chub and I had some thumping bites there on ledger. Indeed, every cast produced one or more bites, some from small chub of no consequence and some from fish that baffled me because I could not hook them.

A smaller hook and bait would probably have told me earlier, for eventually I hooked one and was surprised to find it was a gudgeon. I could understand a Teme gudgeon, which seem to be all mouth, attacking a big bait, but what shook me was the strength of their bites. Anyway, that mystery solved, I was able to look at the water in a more general way.

The next trip was a short one. I was still attracted by the possibilities of the fast water under the big tree, but after a dabble there I soon realised that it was reserved for the gudgeon and moved off to a tree-lined spot where I had a frantic hour with the chub, the slippery bank and the tall overhead trees.

The trees were the hardest to overcome. With float tackle I could have swung a bait out and let it trot down. But I persisted with the ledger tackle and eventually solved the problem of casting a weight from a spot where I could not raise the rod upright due to the trees directly above my head. I did it by digging my heels into the

steep bank (nearly vertical at this point), pointing my rod tip at the water and making some sort of a golf shot. Notwithstanding the time I spent untangling tackle, I caught four small chub inside the last hour—all very small. However this set me alight and I could hardly wait for the next week-end to arrive. When it did I had a very enjoyable day.

The water was as low as it had been all the summer. I found chub along the tree-lined stretches and without concentrating on one spot moved pretty well all along the fishery. In all I had eight fish from a pound to a pound-and-a-half, which, according to the 'regulars', seemed to be the usual size. I would not like to say that much bigger fish do not exist at Broadwas, but I think you would be considered fortunate to see anything heavier than 1½-lb.

From my own observations (and I expect to be howled down) the average size of chub decreases as you go lower down any river. At Broadwas the Teme has very nearly finished its run; in a few miles it joins the Severn. I've had much better fish higher up at Ashford Bowler and I have found things to be roughly the same on the Severn. Last autumn,

Continued on page 24

ROUND B.A.A. WATERS

Continued from page 13

I had catches averaging 2½-lb at Bicton; 2-lb at Buildwas and 1½-lb at Bevere.

At Broadwas, under low water conditions, I found the chub in the fast moving water just above and below the broken stretches where it runs over a shallow rocky bottom. The bigger fish were at the head of the swim. The spot I have described earlier, which yielded four small fish along the tree-lined stretch, was some distance below one of these fast runs.

Under such summer level conditions I am sure that it was suitable water the fish were seeking rather than bankside conditions. It was not the trees which appealed to the fish. It was the depth and the current and the food in the deepening water below the shallows. All eight were taken far from the bank.

Broadwas, for me, interesting as much of it as I could, was something of a Commando course. After being cooped up all the week,

climbing those very steep banks was a pleasant experience, but I still don't know if I would have done better by staying in one place. Perhaps not, for although the first bite in a swim came very quickly, the second was much slower. I think that when you have caught one chub, you might as well move rather than wait for the swim to settle down, although this did not prove to be the case with the four small ones caught within the hour.

A fly fisherman there had other views. He complained that there were too many chub. Every cast brought a small chub, but no trout. Another angler I met had a fine bag of dace caught on maggot.

One thing at least is sure: Broadwas is one of the most pleasant fisheries I've met in B.A.A. waters. Most of the banks are very steep and could be treacherous in wet weather but there are one or two places easily accessible. The beer's O.K. too.

M A G G O T S

AND

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Written and illustrated

by

J. S. DOWNES

Just a tiny brook,
a tributary of the
Worfe, which enters
the Severn at
Bridgnorth

WHEN PEACE AND QUIET AS WELL AS GOOD FISH ARE THE
MAIN OBJECTIVES, THERE'S A LOT TO BE SAID FOR

FISHING IN MINIATURE

HOW many times whilst out in the Midland countryside heading for the big rivers and well-known venues have you come across a small brook of the Tennyson type, a mere rod wide, a quill deep, its bed clearly visible and apparently devoid of fish? And how many times have you written off these tiny waterways as hopeless from the fishing point of view?

But wait; some of those stickles may be worth a second thought, and you may go on thinking and wondering as I did when one yielded a trout of 2 lb.

Brook fishing is not for the contest man; indeed, even two is a crowd. It is for the lone wolves, anglers like me who are a little apprehensive of the inevitable weekend exodus to popular and distant waters, and whose main ingredients for enjoyable fishing are peace and quiet.

It's surprising what pleasure and excitement can be found in some of the ordinary-looking brooks that traverse the Shropshire and Wor-

cester countryside before joining not the Severn but one of its minor tributaries. Precocious grandchildren of the parent river, they often contain trout big enough to embarrass their elders. And to one's fishing they bring in a sort of third dimension.

The many components and features of a big river are often so numerous as to be mentally indigestible. The whole picture cannot be accurately analysed and tactics cannot be efficiently planned. But the small brook allows the fisherman to see all this diversity crystallized into a readily understool pattern, to see his water as a living thing in beautiful balance with its natural life and to be intimate with it.

I am convinced that 90% of anglers are never really in touch with their big river, either through noise and distraction or, more important, because everything—the width, depth, currents, eddies, banks, even the river itself—is on too big a scale. The fishermen's finger is not on the pulse: he is not completely

in communion with the water and, ill at ease, he fails to catch fish.

Brook fishing is different. It provides a really good apprenticeship in the art of river lore and the natural history and habits of fish. Here one can observe the way food particles are swept by the main current into the comparatively slack water where the fish, ever expectant, hover in wait. Here one may lie on the bank and study the take of a trout and see clearly the way it rises to a fly. Here is a small scale working model of the big river. Clearly you will see the interplay of its component parts—how the deep glides are formed, how the fast gravelly stretches are created, the reason for a sand bar being where it is and how the fish orient themselves in relation to these features. And you may profitably apply this mental blue-print when next on the banks of the Severn or Wye.

Well, where are these trout when one can see every detail of the river bed but no fish? In many respects a trout's habits are those of the

pike, and for our purpose the important similarity is the habit of lying in wait for prey and adopting cloak and dagger tactics. So the trout are to be found at the loops of our meandering brook, poised under the banks where the stream has eroded a cavern beneath the roots of Withy or Alder. A trout will live the greater part of its life in one of these lairs, never moving more than a couple of feet to snap at larvæ and nymphs swirling past in the current.

You will discover that every bend contains a lair which is certain to be tenanted, and will be re-tenanted when its occupant is caught, for there is great competition between trout for these idealized spots which afford deeper water and sanctuary and into which all food is naturally swept.

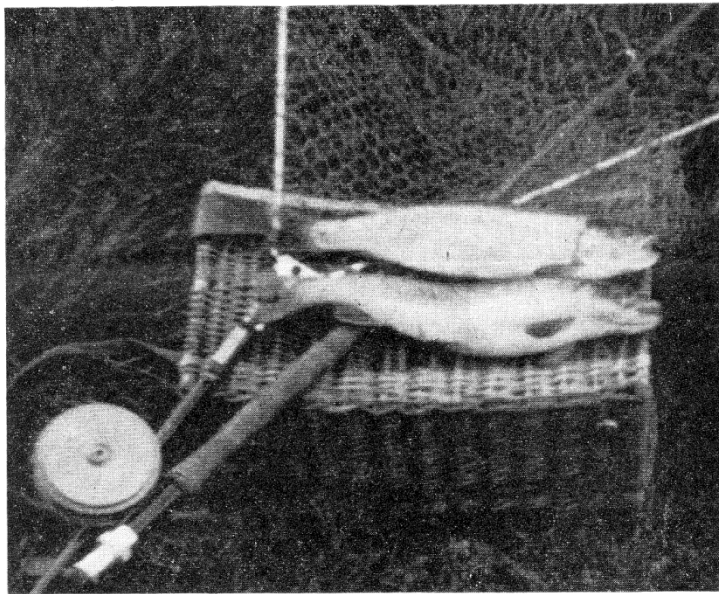
but it has
produced
trout of
this calibre

You must approach in a crouched position, and, as you near the bank on all fours with assembled rod pointing ahead, the worm is swung out to pitch lightly on the water a little upstream from the lair. The current will carry the bait right under the bank into the lair as you pay out sufficient line to avoid drag and unnatural surface patterns. The sign of a take is a halting of the sideways sweep of the line followed by a shoot. There is no need to try to see the trout take. When the floating line "shoots" it is time to tighten up, get to your feet and concentrate on getting your fish out

gossamer tackle. He can't afford to be, for if he does not connect with his first rush it is too late and his food has been swept away.

When conditions are such that undergrowth and overhanging branches do not allow you to swing out the worm, a variant is to poke the rod through the vegetation with a very short line, keeping out of sight and watching the rod tip.

If the fish strikes and misses, try again without appearing. If you have not caught him within three or four attempts you are wasting your time, for compared with sophisticated brook trout the carp

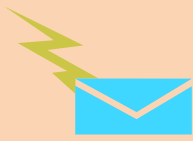


Because these brooks are narrow, shallow and, except during a spate, gin clear, the trout are extremely wary. The usual blundering approach to Severnside—the heavy plod, the reverberating discharge of creel from back to bank with the shouted observation, "This seems a good hole"—will definitely not do. No, the strategy employed calls for the tread of a cat, with stealth the watchword and worming downstream without float or shot the method par excellence.

of its lair. The longer he is allowed to stay under the bank the greater the danger of becoming snagged in a root.

The ideal tackle for success is a short rod (an eight foot two-piece is if anything too long), an ordinary centre-pin reel and nylon line greased to within a couple of feet of the worm. As the risk of becoming snagged is considerable, eyed hooks—a size 10 is about right—tied direct to the line should be used. Dainty hooks are useless. A trout in ambush is no respecter of

is a confiding dolt. Continue to the next lair and don't forget to try under a bridge; the dark water there is another favoured spot and may well be fruitful. And talking of dark water there is another point about these brooks which commends them to me. When the Severn is in one of its Welsh-inspired spates and looks like cocoa, they are at their best—a little higher perhaps, but with just the right amount of Nature's groundbait in the form of extra colour that invariably spells success.



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.

Dear John,

Following the high number of fish deaths at Coppice Lake this week (28/05/12) I have an idea that I would like to put forward.

I couldn't help but think that not only the high temperatures and spawning have caused this but also the amount of angling pressure the fish receive has been a big contribution too and my friends and I are convinced that the constant catch reports of carp published in B.A.A newsletter do nothing to help this matter.

I therefore wish to put forward an idea to the committee that, with fish welfare in mind, the monthly catch reports are either scrapped all together or have the venue name removed from the report.

Regards,

Ashley Shaw

Ed: Thanks for your thoughts on Coppice. Currently the main suspect for the fish deaths is low oxygen levels in the water; as measured by the Environment Agency at the time. Water samples were also taken away by the EA for testing; we await the results of this.

Low oxygen levels could be caused by a number of items such as; high water temperature due to the weather, limited flow of water through the Lake, high level of groundbait deposited into the Lake, limited plant life in the Lake to replenish oxygen levels and a high population of large carp which overgraze oxygen producing plants.

As you say other items such as fishing pressure and spawning may also have had a contributory effect. The BAA will take all this into account when deciding the way forward for Coppice Lake including how we report catches in this magazine.

Dear Mr Williams

My father and I were fishing at Stanley Waters on the Severn at the weekend. Another group of anglers (they were holidaying, staying at the nearby holiday home) caught a couple of barbel and walked a couple of hundred yards to their friend in a downstream peg with the fish in a landing net to weigh it - not good for fish welfare, especially hard fighting barbel.

I had a couple of thoughts re this:

- Perhaps you could pass this on to the local bailiffs as they can then mention that this practice is unacceptable to anglers when checking their cards?
- Could you put a section on the website encouraging members to send in details about issues of concern when they've been fishing waters?
- Possibly put local bailiff's mobile numbers or email addresses on the website as anglers could then text/email issues while actually on the bank?
- Print some of the key rules on membership cards and day tickets (e.g. all fish must be returned immediately to the water after capture) - whilst this in itself may not stop irresponsible behaviour, it would enable members like myself to point out the rule to offenders and not have to argue about whether what they are doing is acceptable or not.

Keep up the good work.

Kind regards

Mark Charnock

Member

Ed: Thanks for reporting your concerns; I will raise them and your suggestions at the next BAA Executive meeting.

Taking stock

For your information, copied below is the text from the **taking stock** document issued by the Environment Agency. It covers the law governing removal of fish from rivers and still waters. As the document states, the new byelaws have been introduced due to an increase in the removal of fish for eating or stolen for restocking of Stillwater fisheries.

The BAA has stricter rules covering its fisheries which are;

C.3 Removal of Fish Stocks. *No coarse fish shall be removed from Association waters with the exception of Zander. Members may retain caught fish in a suitable keepnet or keepsack, provided they are returned alive to the water with as little injury as possible, on or before the completion of fishing. Members may remove game fish from Association waters subject to Environment Agency bye-laws.*

taking stock

Taking freshwater fish – the law

New rules on fish removals

We have introduced new byelaws that restrict what fish (coarse fish and eel) you can catch and *remove* by rod and line. The word '*remove*' means to take permanently from a fishery. It includes the use of caught fish for live or dead bait. You can still keep fish in a keepnet or keepsack before returning them to the water. Just make sure your net or sack is a legal size. See www.environment-agency.gov.uk/fish for details.

Why do we need these new byelaws?

Most coarse anglers return their catch. But more anglers are taking coarse fish to eat. Also, many fish have been stolen to restock Stillwater fisheries or been moved illegally. We don't want to stop anglers from taking a few fish, but we do need to protect fisheries and fish stocks. For a copy of the new byelaws, see www.environment-agency.gov.uk/fish.

Rivers

On any given day, you may only remove:

- 15 small fish (up to 20 cm from tip of snout to fork of tail) of the native species listed in Box 1;
- one pike of up to 65 cm;
- two grayling of 30–38 cm.

If you remove more fish than this, you are committing an offence under the new byelaws – you risk a substantial fine.

Remember that you will still need the written permission of the owner or club to remove fish from privately owned waters. Fishery owners and clubs may also impose their own, stricter limits. *If you fish without permission and don't comply with their rules, you risk prosecution under the Theft Act 1968.*

The byelaw applies to:

Common bream	Barbel	Chub	Dace
Common carp	Perch	Pike	Roach
Crucian carp	Rudd	Smelt	Tench
Silver bream			

It **includes** hybrids of any of these species.

It **excludes** ornamental varieties or colour variants of these species, such as ghost or koi carp.

You can still take:

- unlisted 'tiddler' species – such as gudgeon;
- non-native species – such as zander;
- ornamental varieties of native species – such as ghost or koi carp.

The byelaws also apply to some natural lakes:

- Windermere, Coniston Water, Ullswater and Derwent Water (all in Cumbria);
- All the waters in the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads that are subject to the coarse fish close season;
- Llyn Tegid (Bala Lake) and Llyn Maelog in Wales.

Stillwaters and canals

You may only remove fish with the written permission of the owner or club. This is normally a day ticket or permit, on which the fishery rules are often printed. These rules normally state the numbers and types of fish you can remove. If in doubt, ask the owner.

If you take fish without permission you are now committing an offence under the new byelaws. You risk a substantial fine. And you still risk prosecution under the Theft Act 1968.

If there is no obvious owner to ask for permission, you are not allowed to remove any fish.

The following canals are actually rivers:

- Aire & Calder Navigation – between Castleford Weir and Ferrybridge Lock;
- Stroudwater and Thames Canal;
- Fossdyke Canal;
- Kennet & Avon Canal – downstream of where it merges with the River Kennet at Kintbury;
- Lee Navigation – upstream of Aqueduct Lock.

If you're fishing on one of these canals, follow the rules for rivers.

Eel

European eel stocks are at worryingly low levels. The numbers of young eel returning to European rivers have fallen by more than 95 per cent. And they are still falling. We are reducing net fishing where necessary, as well as other threats to eel stocks. Angling can also pose a risk, so it is now illegal to remove any eel caught by rod and line.

Salmon, trout and shad

These fish are covered by other byelaws – see www.environment-agency.gov.uk/fish.

Reporting offences

Not everyone removing fish will be breaking the law. Most anglers who take fish from stillwaters will be doing so with the owner's permission. It is still legal to take some fish from rivers. But do call us if you think that someone is committing an offence – by taking more or different fish than they should.

We would like you to tell us all you can about:

- what is happening;
- the methods being used;
- whether it is happening at that moment;
- where precisely it is happening;
- what laws are being broken;
- what fish are being taken and how many;
- the people involved – how many, their appearance and what they're driving;
- whether this happens regularly at this location.

Don't worry if you don't have all this information. Just tell us what you can. We can then decide the best way of dealing with the problem.

We cannot attend all incidents but your reports help us to identify where there is a serious problem or a pattern of regular offending.

If you report an incident, we will normally let you know what happens.

To report a problem, please ring the
Environment Agency Incident Hotline

0800 80 70 60

(Free-phone 24 hour)

Walcot Lake stone skimming

Fancy a change from fishing? Why not try stone skimming?

The British Stone Skimming Championships are being held at Walcot Lake on Sunday 15th July.

The location for the competition is on the house side of the lake between the drive and the little island, the other side to the BAA fishery. The organisers are planning to build a small platform out into the lake for the stones to be skimmed from parallel to the shore. The Severn Valley Diving Club will be snorkelling afterwards to retrieve some of the stones.

If you fancy a go, maybe as a BAA team, details are below;



IN AID OF PROSTATE CANCER CHARITIES

THE BRITISH SUNDAY 15TH JULY 2012

STONE SKIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

12 NOON - 5 PM

£2.50 FOR EACH SET OF 4 SKIMMING STONES.

FOUR CATEGORIES FOR BOTH MALE & FEMALE. LOTS OF OTHER ACTIVITIES.

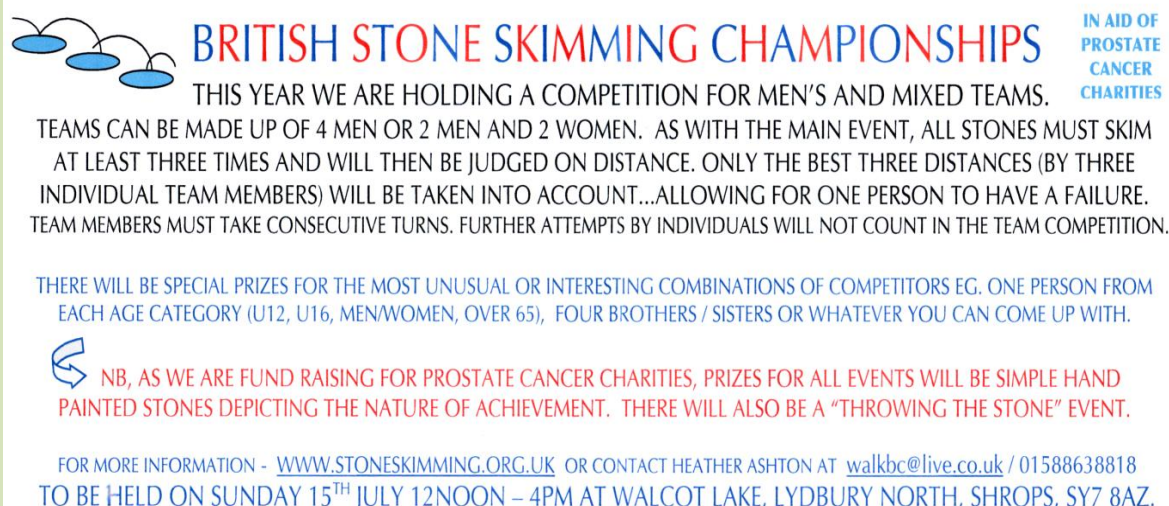
WALCOT LAKE, LYDBURY NORTH, SHROPSHIRE, SY7 8AZ

01588 638818 / FACEBOOK / WWW.STONESKIMMING.ORG.UK

AND STONE GAMES

ENTRY ONTO FIELD FREE

GUEST SKIMMER
DEREK RANDALL
* ENGLAND CRICKETER *




BRITISH STONE SKIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

IN AID OF PROSTATE CANCER CHARITIES

THIS YEAR WE ARE HOLDING A COMPETITION FOR MEN'S AND MIXED TEAMS.

TEAMS CAN BE MADE UP OF 4 MEN OR 2 MEN AND 2 WOMEN. AS WITH THE MAIN EVENT, ALL STONES MUST SKIM AT LEAST THREE TIMES AND WILL THEN BE JUDGED ON DISTANCE. ONLY THE BEST THREE DISTANCES (BY THREE INDIVIDUAL TEAM MEMBERS) WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT...ALLOWING FOR ONE PERSON TO HAVE A FAILURE. TEAM MEMBERS MUST TAKE CONSECUTIVE TURNS. FURTHER ATTEMPTS BY INDIVIDUALS WILL NOT COUNT IN THE TEAM COMPETITION.

THERE WILL BE SPECIAL PRIZES FOR THE MOST UNUSUAL OR INTERESTING COMBINATIONS OF COMPETITORS EG. ONE PERSON FROM EACH AGE CATEGORY (U12, U16, MEN/WOMEN, OVER 65), FOUR BROTHERS / SISTERS OR WHATEVER YOU CAN COME UP WITH.

 NB, AS WE ARE FUND RAISING FOR PROSTATE CANCER CHARITIES, PRIZES FOR ALL EVENTS WILL BE SIMPLE HAND PAINTED STONES DEPICTING THE NATURE OF ACHIEVEMENT. THERE WILL ALSO BE A "THROWING THE STONE" EVENT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION - WWW.STONESKIMMING.ORG.UK OR CONTACT HEATHER ASHTON AT walkbc@live.co.uk / 01588638818
TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY 15TH JULY 12NOON - 4PM AT WALCOT LAKE, LYDBURY NORTH, SHROPS, SY7 8AZ.

Smiling Families first annual fishing contest

Dear Sir/Madam

Would it be possible to distribute our PDF to your members in the Midlands regards a charity fishing event? I have attached a PDF about the charity and also about the contest itself.

We would be grateful for anything you can assist us with and thank you in advance.

Regards, Kerry Martin-Beades



2 Chelmsley Avenue, Coleshill, North Warks, B46 3LG
Tel: 0757 210 8073
www.smilingfamilies.co.uk
smile@smilingfamilies.co.uk

The charity was created by Paul and Kerry Martin-Beades after Kerry experienced a life threatening illness following the traumatic birth of their child which developed a number of continued health concerns.

Other than the support of their families, they found there were very few opportunities to make contact with other families in similar circumstances.

Having worked with a number of midlands based charities they decided to make arrangements for several family fun days giving opportunities for those affected by illness the chance to enjoy and relax as a family unit.

Additional to fun days and events there are support systems to aid families and foster friendships with others who have been through similar experiences.

Kerry is a qualified teacher and is currently studying to be a family counsellor to help the charity develop further, Paul is a qualified trainer and regularly holds sessions for NHS staff highlighting areas in which practice and procedures can be improved.

The vision for the charity is to increase the number of fun events and activities, to include many more children and parents affected by illness, to expand web page forums to include professional help and advice, and continue to develop improved relationships between external bodies and those who need support.

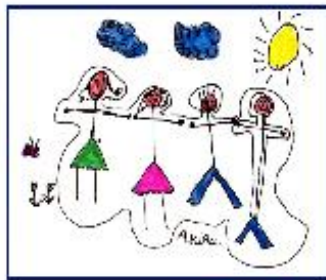
Smiling Families would like to see smiles on the faces of children and parents who are suffering and improved support for family units.

FOSTERS of Birmingham
established 1978









www.smilingfamilies.co.uk

Proud to be the recipients of the Tamworth Herald Fund raiser of the year for 2011

Helping Families to Smile Again

Our First Annual Fishing Contest
To be held at



**Buzzards Valley Fisheries, Shirral drive, Drayton Bassett, Tamworth,
Staffordshire, B78 3EQ**

On

Saturday 8th September 2012

The Match Lake, Osprey Lake

44 Pegs available, £20 per peg (£10 deposit required)

Meet for briefing at 0800, lines in at 0900

Lines out 1400

Book via Paul or Kerry 0757 210 8073

smile@smilingfamilies.co.uk

1st £100
2nd £50 Fosters voucher
Other prizes to be announced



Frankie & Benny's



FluidMedia Ltd
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of Birmingham
FOSTERS
established 1978

For more information on what we do, please visit our web site www.smilingfamilies.co.uk or find us on Facebook
Smiling Families Charity

Cormorants

The petition copied below has been raised to request changes to the way cormorant numbers are controlled to reduce their impact on fisheries such as the Warwickshire Avon. If you agree with the petition and wish to add your name **Ctrl+click** the hyperlink below to access the petition website;

<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/cormorants-biodiversity-in-danger.html>

Or **Ctrl+click** the link in petition copied below to sign it.

Biodiversity in Danger - Review Cormorant licensing regime

Petition published by [Trevor Harrop, Budgie Price, J.Wreglesworth, Hugh Miles, P.Pleydell-Bouverie, C.Whalley & P.Orchard](#) on Jun 06, 2011

Target: Richard Benyon MP. Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries

Region: United Kingdom

Petition Background (Preamble):

Avon Valley Cormorants – Biodiversity in Danger.

Compiled and co-written by Jim Wreglesworth, Trevor Harrop, Hugh Miles, Budgie Price, Peter Pleydell-Bouverie, Chris Whalley and Peter Orchard.

- Non-native invasive species.
- Population explosion.
- A direct threat to SSSI and SAC protected species.

Overview.

There has been a significant increase in the numbers of cormorants feeding within the River Avon valley.

Numbers of UK cormorants have been bolstered by an influx of non-native birds from mainland Europe of the subspecies *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*. This began in, and has been increasing since the 1980's.

The presence of cormorants in such large numbers is a direct threat to precious Avon fish populations and other highly valued native wildlife.

The current licensing system does not provide river managers with an effective legal option for controlling the number, or influencing the behaviour of the Avon cormorant population.

Good habitat management can only do so much to ensure fish survival and recruitment; a more direct method is required to reduce the impact of cormorants on local fish populations and native wildlife.

Cormorant-scaring tactics and fish refuges do not work in a river environment; shooting is the only realistic option.

DEFRA announced in January 2011 that Richard Benyon MP will carry out a review of the current licensing system – now is the time to voice our concerns and get the cormorant included on the “General License”.

Background & Current Situation.

There are two types, or “subspecies”, of cormorant. One is native to the UK, while the other has only arrived from mainland Europe in recent years – first becoming established at UK inland locations during the early 1980’s. Colonies of these birds grew rapidly and by 2005, numbers of breeding pairs increased to 2,096.

“This population is thought to have been founded by continental birds, originating primarily from The Netherlands and Denmark”
(The Status of inland-breeding great Cormorants in England – Newson, Marchant, Ekins & Sellers).

The arrival and increase of the European subspecies is of significant note because it habitually prefers to feed and breed at inland locations, such as lakes, gravel pits and rivers, all of which are features of the Avon valley.

Each pair of cormorants is capable of rearing 1-3 young each summer, and with increasing numbers of European birds remaining in the UK for the breeding season it is no wonder that we are seeing more and more cormorants on our inland waters.

It is estimated that there is now “...a wintering population in Great Britain of around 23,000 birds” (Natural England Technical Information Note TIN041 – second edition, January 2011). This rate of rise in population of cormorants is having a devastating impact on already fragile fish populations.

Historically, numbers of cormorants have been controlled, but like all UK wild birds they are now protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Currently a personal license (issued by DEFRA) is required to legally shoot cormorants.

Such large, uncontrolled numbers of cormorants are a threat to our native wildlife and to the rivers’ important SSSI and SAC designation. There is a growing fear of the impact these invasive birds are having on our native fauna, both in the short and long term.

The direct predation of fish inhabiting the Avon is a concern from a fish conservation perspective. However, the knock-on effects of a river ecosystem lacking in fish is disastrous for other important and much-loved native creatures such as the otter, grebe and kingfisher. Fish are a crucial, yet often over-looked link in the food chain.

There is some speculation as to the actual quantity of fish which a single cormorant typically eats. But undoubtedly the large flocks of cormorants feeding in the Avon valley do consume significant numbers of fish, even based on the most conservative consumption estimates.

“On average, an adult cormorant requires around 400g – 500g (about one pound) of food each day although the weight of fish eaten on a particular day can vary considerably”.
(The Moran Committee – Cormorants the Facts)

Cormorants are superbly adapted to hunt fish, and watching a cormorant feeding in a coastal environment demonstrates that they are able to hunt efficiently in very large bodies of water. To watch that same highly evolved predator hunting in a relatively small chalk stream is comparable to watching a tiger hunting sheep in a barn.

Species such as salmon and bullhead should be protected under the river's SSSI and SAC designation and, under the Water Framework Directive, good fish populations are considered a key indicator of a healthy and balanced ecosystem. With Avon salmon populations already perilously low, and in steep decline, any further predation of salmon smolt will be catastrophic. In spite of this we do not currently have effective methods or financial support available to manage inland cormorant numbers.

In addition to those fish species supposedly already protected by European law there are other species, such as roach, which have become increasingly scarce. There is huge concern that the large numbers of cormorants feeding in the Avon are having a devastating impact on the remaining fragile populations of some fish species. With numbers of Avon salmon, roach and eels at critically low levels, the continued impact of such high levels of cormorant predation could be irreversible. Since 2005, Environment Agency fish surveys have demonstrated a severe decline and almost disappearance of roach from the Avon's middle reaches.

"...if fish numbers fall to a very low level, predation by birds could become a factor in the survival of local populations".

(The Moran Committee – Cormorants the Facts)

Angling supports a huge economic sector within the Avon valley, but at present the people charged with managing that sector (landowners, river-keepers, fishing clubs and rent payers) have no effective, legal way of controlling cormorants or reducing the threat they pose to this precious SSSI.

Good river management and habitat creation, while crucial, can only do so much to maintain fish survival and recruitment. In a lake environment there are various methods which can be used in an attempt to protect fish populations from cormorant predation e.g. artificial refuges. On a river system however it is much more difficult, with shooting being the only effective method.

"For rivers, increasing human disturbance, non-lethal shooting to scare and shooting to kill (either to reinforce scaring or reduce cormorant numbers at the site) appear to be the only options that may be effective."

(Natural England Technical Information Note TIN041 – second edition, January 2011).

Currently a river-keeper can apply to DEFRA for a personal license to shoot a number of cormorants. Typically though, that number will be restricted to as few as 3 or 4 birds per year!

Given that individual flocks of cormorants are regularly seen during the winter months numbering in excess of 100 birds, with individual flocks of as many as 300 being reported, the small number of birds on the license renders the process of obtaining the license almost pointless. It is however crucial that, until the licensing system has been changed, all relevant bodies should apply for a license so that a strong message is sent to DEFRA that the cormorant problem is worse than ever.

What is needed?

Make no mistake, this is a complex issue. There are many factors both inside and outside of the Avon valley which have influenced the development of the local cormorant population. They all need to be understood and managed.

However, in order for our fragile river to be preserved at a local level the river managers must have the legal right to control cormorant numbers. Funding and support from the government may be needed to assist in this process and should be made available as required.

For there to be a realistic improvement in the situation it is widely felt that cormorants should be included on the "General License".

"General Licenses reduce bureaucracy by allowing people to carry out activities that affect protected species without the need to apply for a personal license"
<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/regulation/wildlife/licences/generallicences.aspx>

It seems obvious that the Avon cormorant population poses a threat to the sustainability of the Avon SSSI and SAC. This cormorant issue seems to fit perfectly within the General License section "Management of species causing conflict with conservation or human interests".

It is essential that this problem can be tackled in a legal and efficient way. To include the cormorant on the General License would seem to be the best way of doing so.

Perhaps not all landowners within the Avon valley will want to adopt the same management techniques, but it is crucial that they should have both the legal right and financial support to do so if they wish.

DEFRA announced in January 2011 that Richard Benyon MP will carry out a review of the cormorant licensing regime. We would like to urge everybody to take this opportunity to voice their concerns in writing to:

Richard Benyon MP
 Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries
 Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
 Nobel House
 17 Smith Square
 London SW1P 3JR

Petition:

The current Cormorant licensing regime is woefully inadequate as it stands. Therefore, we the undersigned call upon the Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries to change the licensing law and include the Cormorant on the 'General License', allowing the legal control of Cormorant numbers where they pose a threat to fish populations.

In so doing, this will allow the vital link in the food chain to be maintained, and the protection of not only endangered fish species, but also species such as Kingfishers, Grebes and Otters.

We should have the right to protect our environment, but the current law does not allow this.

The Cormorant problem is NOT Avon specific, but affects rivers, lakes, canals and reservoirs all over the country.

Sign the petition