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# B.A.A. NEWS



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July 2015

## Final issue

As a result of the launch of the new BAA website followed by the addition of the Members Forum, the content that previously was supplied by our members and published in this magazine has migrated onto the website and forum.

Readers' Letters can be posted on the forum or emailed to us using the Contact Us facility on the website.

Fishing News catch pictures can now be posted on the forum.

Match results can be posted on the forum in the Match Fishing area.

Fisheries News is covered by the Fisheries work plan which is on the website in the Booked Waters & Fisheries work plan section, this plan is updated as soon as changes to it occur.

I have therefore decided that the BAA News is no longer viable and this will be the final publication.

Thanks to all how have supplied readers' letters and catch pictures over the last four and a bit years of publication, keep posting them on the Members Forum. And a final thanks to our readers.

Regards

The Editor



# Executive update



## Bailiffing

K Pearson reported statistics showed 1043 bailiffing visits made in the year to date, with 1061 anglers checked and 102 removed.

Report of a meeting of bailiffs held in Evesham which had been well received with 30 bailiffs in attendance. Venues had been identified to receive particular attention during the new season, especially around the middle Avon and Severn.

New bailiffs had been recruited to look after the Stacklands fishery on the Wye. Bailiffs would be in attendance every day during the early season.

K Pearson and S Wyton had attended the launch of operation "Leviathan", an initiative involving Environment Agency, Angling Trust and local police forces, which would be cooperating to carry out joint patrols on Midlands Rivers.

K Pearson had also attended a bailiffing workshop, organised by Angling Trust and held in Cheshire.

A 'fixed line' fish trap had been discovered at Apperley pool.

## Wye Maggot & feeder ban

Confirmation that the EA had granted a dispensation for BAA members to use maggots and ground bait on the river Wye at Stacklands.



# Archive extracts



Below are extracts from the July 1961 and 1963 editions of the Midland Angler, the forerunner to the BAA News.

## A COMPROMISE ON THE WYE?

FOR nearly three wearying years coarse fish anglers on the Wye have been deprived of their favourite summer time pastime—swimming the stream with maggot in the hope of luring some of the Wye's big chub, dace and roach. The river board's 'no maggots'

bye-law has hit them and hit them hard. During these long and (we hope) sunny days they must either make do with bread or worms or not fish at all. The only alternative is to wait until the dark days of winter when salmon fishing comes to an end and the powers that be graciously allow maggot fishing to be resumed for a few short months.

Is there any hope that this anti-social bye-law will one day be repealed and coarse fish anglers will be given the freedom of the river to which they are rightfully entitled? Our only hope is that the new authorities soon to replace river boards will take a more democratic view than that shown by the present rulers of our sport.

Meanwhile the Wye River Board might at least consider a compromise move which, if agreed to, would go a long way towards removing the bitterness that at present exists between coarse fish anglers and the group of salmon fishery owners who at present control the river via the river board.

The suggestion is this: Retain the bye-law outlawing maggot fishing in the higher reaches of the river, where salmon parr are plentiful, but allow coarse fish anglers to use their normal baits elsewhere.

Even the most rabid of the anti-maggot brigade must admit that in the lower reaches of the Wye—even as far up-river as Hereford—the number of parr caught on the humble gentle is infinitesimal. At places like Monmouth, Goodrich, Kerne Bridge and Symonds Yat one can fish every day for a whole season without hooking a salmon of the future. Why then prevent coarse fish anglers from enjoying their sport to the full at such places during the summer months?

Towns and villages in these areas who rely upon visiting coarse fish anglers for part of their livelihood have already complained of the maggot ban's ill effects. A removal of the ban on the whole of the river below Hereford would remove their fears and at the same time brighten the summer for the many thousands of fishermen to whom the Wye at this time of year is a 'lost' river.



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TAG BARNES'

# Specimen Hunter's Diary

*A slow start that  
could have been worse*

Who caught the first fish of the 1961-2 coarse fishing season?

Fellow club member John Neville must be well in the running. At precisely midnight on May 31 (the season opened on June 1 in my part of the world) he put out a lobworm in the dark waters of Foxton Dam and two minutes later slid a lusty tench into his net.

In Yorkshire the new season came in both cold and wet with water temperatures in the lower fifties—anything but promising from the carp and tench fishers' point of view.

Nevertheless, at dawn on opening day Brian Thompson—another member of our specimen hunters' club—had a few hours on our pond before starting work and landed a number of small carp and tench up to 2-lb. On the same evening big-fish-enthusiast Reg Brotherton accompanied me on a trip to the pond but although we stayed until well after dark we had only one 2½-lb. tench as a reward for our efforts.

It was not until the club received an invitation to fish a water known to contain, among other species, a good head of carp, that we made up our minds where to spend our first all-night session. And as things turned out we were the only two to take advantage of the offer; the remainder had already made other plans.

Both of us had fished the particular water once before and on that occasion, because of the cool weather had chosen the deeper water towards the dam end.

On this particular Saturday, however, the weather was much milder; when we reached the lake in the half-light of evening the overcast

skies presaged a warm and sultry night. It was for this reason that we chose two adjoining pitches at the shallow end of the pool.

Fishing lobworms during the first 1½-hours only produced unwanted perch, so the baits were changed to balanced paste and crust. Nothing further happened until midnight when the buzzer on my right hand rod 'sounded off' and the resultant strike gave my Mark IV its first real test of the season.

As soon as it was hooked, the fish 'kited' into the bank on my right hand side at great speed, leaving yards of slack line which I recovered as fast as I could turn the reel handle. When the slack was eventually taken up the fish was still on, but instead of rushing back, as I had anticipated, it suddenly shot through the water parallel to the bank on my left—and there we parted company.

As I had only brought one bite alarm and did not want to spend the rest of the night staring at a piece of silver paper, I improvised an audible alarm for my second rod. First I placed a stick across an inverted tin lid and trapped the silver paper on to it with a two-shilling piece.

At around 1 a.m. the coin dropped into the lid with a clatter that made me jump a foot and brought from Reg the exclamation—'Jackpot!' But this was no monster. The strike produced, of all things, a rudd of about a pound which had somehow managed to engulf the walnut-sized bait I had on a No. 2 hook.

The remainder of the night saw a series of half-hearted runs that never really developed—for reasons that did not become obvious until

the first rays of morning sunlight lit up the scene.

In the poor light of the previous evening we had failed to notice that the whole area we had chosen to fish was covered in a thick bed of algae—excellent stuff for fattening carp, but of little use to lay a line in.

Crawling round the shallows at 5.30 a.m. revealed a tench of about 5-lb. grovelling on the bottom in eighteen inches of water, so a lob was cast a couple of feet away from it. The tench promptly turned and made its way steadily towards the bait, but whether it intended to take it or not is something we shall never know. Before it had a chance to even examine it, a six-ounce perch suddenly appeared from nowhere and snatched the bait from beneath the tench's nose. A further tench—an extremely lank two-pounder—was also spotted and this took a lob worm without any hesitation.

On another evening trip early in the season we spent three hours fishing fly and minnow in the hope of catching one of the large cannibal trout that live in a local reservoir. The result was a blank and a thorough soaking from rain that teemed down the whole time we were there.

The first Saturday night of the season 'proper'—i.e. June 17th—was devoted to a ticket water in Derbyshire where once again we ran into some foul weather. Rain driven by a wind of half-gale force persisted most of the time and 'birds' nests' were the order of the day—or rather night! The buzzer beat out a continued and uncontrollable tattoo which eventually forced me to abandon it in favour of holding the line between thumb and forefinger. This method produced four bites and four fish to lobworms on a No. 4 hook—two 1-lb. roach and two tench, as alike as two peas in a pod, each weighing 3-lb. And that, for the time being, was that. Not too exciting a start, perhaps, but it could have been worse. Maybe next month I shall have something more startling to report.



# Fisheries report



## Fladbury fly-tipping



We have a Fly tipping problem at Fladbury again, in two lots.

Lot 1:- Up by our gate way two mattresses dumped and set alight but not completely burnt through.

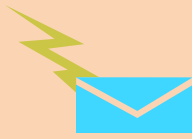
Lot 2:- By the access to the farmer's field, conifers have been dumped. Probably the same person who dumped the last lot in our field, also some paving slabs left in the middle of track.

We had a burn up, whilst we were burning it a pickup reversed in saw us and sped away.

## New Fisheries team member



New Fisheries working party volunteer Stu Robinson fighting his way through the vegetation at Eckington.



# 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.

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I would like to let you know how disappointed I am having booked a day off work for the 16th and was excited to fish the River Avon at Eckington. I love this fishery and fish the furthest peg possible which takes a good walk, and to my disappointment that only a few pegs were available due to the mass of overgrowth of nettles etc, you just could not get or see where the pegs are.

I understand that u need help in clearing banks but surely why this was not brought to attention on your website as the River Wye was that limited pegs only.

Yours faithfully

Colin

*Ed: Colin, thanks for your letter. As you can understand we cannot clear all our river fisheries by the 16<sup>th</sup> June, and at Eckington we wait for the farmer to cut the grass in the field which allows anglers to walk along the bank to the pegs.*

*What I have done is to add to the Booked Waters section of the website a Fisheries work plan showing;*

*What fisheries have been strimmed,  
the planned dates for those to be strimmed,  
fisheries for which we do not yet have a planned dates and  
those we don't do.*

*The plan will be updated as fisheries are strimmed and planned dates changed.*

*Along with the match booking information also contained in this section of our website, it will allow anglers to see the availability and accessibility of our fisheries on the dates they plan to fish.*

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Some info' for you.

I went down to Uckinghall at noon today and the EA were there and doing work on the track. When I left early evening they had finished for the day but the track is almost finished, what an improvement. Secondly you may remember some weeks ago we spoke about the river getting into the pool when the Severn is up a bit due to a faulty plate on the end of the pipe. I spoke to the EA foreman and mentioned it to him. He made a phone call to "the man who maintains all the pipe flaps" and got a promise from him that it will be dealt with. We will see.

Mike Cooper

Hi, I've been to Bidford RB for a look ready for new season only to find that the only bit of river accessible is the small cattle drink below the cut-in, the new bridge is barely visible under the nettles and other vegetation, the bottom field is also above waist height and not accessible, I sent an email regarding this beautiful little stretch last year but sadly it seems very low on your list, US regular visitors to the Avon seem of the opinion that if it can't hold a contest it doesn't get done, we do appreciate all the hard work that is being done but when other venues have had multiple visits and strips then surely it's about time this and other little gems get a tidy up.

Regards John Chadwick

*Ed: Bidford had its first strim on the 26<sup>th</sup> May.*

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Hi to the office and staff.

Fished the Coppice Pool yesterday June 10<sup>th</sup>, the water level is very low and water seems to be leaking through the banks on the far side of the car park. I last fished at the Coppice about a month ago and the water level has gone down by at least a foot.

Would it be possible to send someone down to look at the situation or I do honestly believe we may have fish in distress any time soon.

I would appreciate an Email to let me know you have received this information.

Best Wishes,

Graham Sheldon.

*Ed: As a result of the low water and the forecast heatwave we have taken the decision to close Coppice.*

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You must think I'm a grumpy curmudgeon I seem always to reporting something, however this one is important, Walking the Staffs Worcs canal with my dog early Sunday morning, Lads night fishing for carp , been there since Saturday. Did say to them no night fishing got the shrug. Worst of all a common carp around 10/12lb dead on the water, I know no proof it was them but raised my doubts. The section between Hinksford and Swindon by the narrow boats.

Stephen Williams

*Ed: Stephen thanks and keep reporting. Will pass to our bailiffs.*

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Just to mention that postcode WV16 6NZ given for Harbour Inn is in fact Highley? For Harbour Inn DY12 3NF is better option.

David Jones

*Ed; David, thanks I have updated the website with the new postcode. The website I was using to look up the postcodes did get a bit confused around Arley!*

# 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 7th June

Nordley, Pool 2

		<b>lbs</b>	<b>ozs</b>	<b>drms</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	S Whittall	8	9	0
2 <sup>nd</sup>	D Lloyd	5	12	0
3 <sup>rd</sup>	C Wedgbrow	3	15	0

17 anglers fished the match.

Report: Brian Marsh

## Halesowen RBL

Sunday 21st June

Stanley Waters, River  
Severn

		<b>lbs</b>	<b>ozs</b>	<b>drms</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Sean Waite	24	6	0
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Steve Horton	16	2	0
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mark Traves	11	1	0

Peg 13 - 5 barbel with a couple of perch on feeder fished hemp and casters.

Peg 5 - 3 barbel and a few dace on hemp and caster.

Peg 14 - 2 barbel and few dace and small chub on feeder and maggot.

Report: Lawrie Mulheron