

Est. 1883



B.A.A. NEWS



Tel 01562-882116 Fax 01562-882126
Email baajnw@btinternet.com Website www.baa.uk.com
Facebook www.facebook.com/BirminghamAnglersAssociation?fref=ts

June 2015

**Members Forum now
live on BAA website!**

**Visit the website and
sign up for access.**

**To be able to post you will need a user name and
password, click the link on the Forums page and
complete the form to activate your members access.**

Happy posting



Executive update



Angling Times praise

Des Taylor had praised in the Angling Times, the BAA fisheries team for their work on the River Severn below Bewdley.

Coppice Lake leaks

A number of minor leaks had been found in the bank on the far side of the lake from the car park and are being monitored.

Bailiffing

K Pearson reported: Statistics to date showed 771 visits made, 637 anglers checked and 71 removed. The Association currently has +60 bailiffs registered.

A bailiff had been recruited specifically to concentrate on the new Stacklands Wye fishery.

A fish trap had been found at Blackstone containing both live and dead fish. The matter had been reported to the EA

Fladbury grazing

Potential graziers have been found for the land at Fladbury. It was agreed to allow sheep onto the land, provided that the tenant accepted responsibility for ensuring their security.

Coppice Lake school visit

A request had been received from a school seeking permission to take small parties of pupils to Coppice Lake to experience fishing during their activity week. The events will involve up to five pupils on each day and take place between 6th and 9th July. Permission was granted.



Archive extracts



Below are extracts from the June 1959 and 1960 editions of the Midland Angler, the forerunner to the BAA News.

FOR
CANAL ROACH . . .

Sow The Seed Sparingly

says
GEOFFREY
FRANKS

What is the most consistently successful bait for the larger canal roach during the summer months ?

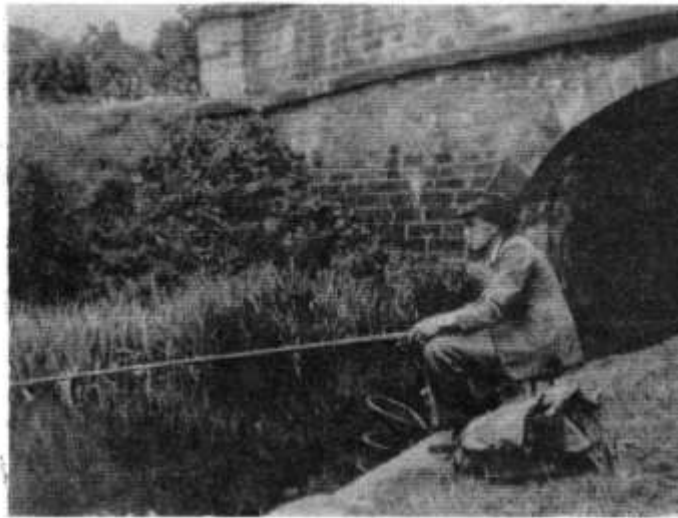
That question, which I suspect has been asked many times at the beginning of a new season, has in my opinion only one answer — hempseed. Hemp is the unchallenged, unsurpassed lure on most Midland canals — provided it is used sensibly.

There are two ways of fishing hemp — the right way and the wrong way. Using the wrong method you can spend the day fishing at mid-water, getting a slight touch at every cast and missing most of them. The result, usually, is too much hemp in the swim, which eventually puts the fish off, a nearly empty keep-net and a strained temper that invariably ends with a firm decision never to use hemp again.

Fished the right way, on or near the bottom, hemp results in much more confident bites and fish of good size popping regularly in the net. And this ideal situation can be quite easily achieved if a few essential factors are followed.

First, the tackle. Like so many others I used to miss bite after bite, often foul-hooking a fish in the process, until I realised that the single shot on my tackle was the cause of all the trouble. The fish were mistaking it for the real seed of hemp further down. I proved it by actually catching fish with a lead shot on my hook.

The cure is simple enough —



'Neat and Near' are the tactics that pay off

remove the offending shot and replace it with a short piece of lead wire that will take the bait to the bottom quickly. Tackle that is too light will only result in the bait being taken as it is sinking — a fatal business, for the bites are like greased lightning and it is practically impossible to make contact.

The ideal swim for hemping on a canal is a shallow one, preferably with a hard clean bottom and a margin of rushes or weed. If the rushes are tall, so much the better. They will screen the angler, too.

It is a good plan to sprinkle a little seed just outside the weed bed and to your right or left, but not directly in front, whilst you are tackling up. When the preliminaries are completed you can then cast over the baited spot with a grain of hemp set a few inches off the bottom.

Each cast, and there are certain to be many, should be accompanied by three or four grains of hemp, an amount which should never be exceeded no matter how well the fish may be feeding. If you are unable to resist temptation and persist in throwing in large handfuls it will only result in fish boiling to the surface. You may perhaps still catch

one or two of them, but it will not be long before the fish have had their fill and decide to call it a day.

One sure way of ensuring that you do not overbait is to take only a small quantity of seed with you. Half-a-pint is adequate for a day on a canal and meagre enough to prevent you ruining your chances.

Long casting is not necessary ; in fact the best results come from 'neat and near' tactics with only about four feet of taut line between the rod and the float. You will still miss many bites — if you connect with half of them you will be doing well — but by fishing in this manner it is possible to get around 10-lb. of roach from a single swim in a day.

The best hemping conditions are undoubtedly a warm and dry day with enough breeze to ripple the surface of the water. Even on perfect days, however, hemp fishing can be most tiring. Regular casting and the constant alertness necessary are certain to take their toll. But those little grains of seed, used correctly, will bring you better fish than any other bait, and if you're tired when you examine your keep-net at the end of the day — well, you'll know you've earned every fish you see.

One Raking Is Worth a Stone of Groundbait

says **NORMAN WOODWARD**



Choose a spot that's weedy or difficult to fish.

IN a very short while now the new season will be upon us—thank goodness—and we'll all be putting into operation the various plans we have dreamed up during the three months lay off.

For me June 16th means that I'll be able to fish once more for tench. I choose them because of all the big fish one could deliberately set out to catch during the first few weeks of the season, they are the ones that are most likely to be caught. Coupled with this they possess fine fighting qualities which vary from fish to fish probably less than any other species. I've never yet caught one over a pound that didn't give me one or two anxious moments before it was in the net.

The methods of fishing and choice of baits are legion. Almost any swim will provide you with sport provided adequate preparations are carried out beforehand—and now's the time to do it!

KEEP IT DARK

If you have to fish a well-thrashed water—as I do—this means doing your preparation when there is no one else about, i.e. at night, so that no one will see which swim you are baiting. It's also a good idea to choose a pitch either well out of the way, or difficult to fish, otherwise no matter how early you arrive you'll

TOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION

EARTHMASTER, worms are unexcelled for hook bait, 25 for 3/- in tins from—M. Stamping & Co., Bromley Cross, Bolton, Lancashire.

MONMOUTH, on Wye and Monnow. Quiet, homely, good food. Moderate terms.—Scard, Wye Haven, Monmouth.

FOUR-BERTH Caravan, Riverside site, 6 miles Oxford. Fishing £4/4/0 per week.—C. Fisher, 65 East Avenue, Oxford.

IRELAND, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Holiday and fishing resort. Dublin 10 miles.—Apply: Martin, 2 Main Street.

find someone there before you. Even if your pitch is vacant you may find that within seconds of starting to cast someone is sitting on your elbow and their float is in the exact centre of your groundbait.

Choose a spot that's either weedy or very close to a big weed bed, but if it needs raking out before you can fish it, do not do anything about it until the morning of the day you intend to fish. There are two reasons for this: the first is that if you haven't a car or motor bike, or are prepared to camp overnight by the waterside,

Strictly For Specimen Hunters

someone else will be at the water before you, and the weeds will put them off.

ATTRACTING TENCH

The second is that when you do rake your swim out, you will be creating an enormous attraction to the tench. One raking equals a stone of groundbait is a good adage, and one well worth remembering. Remember too that the less groundbait you put in to attract your fish, the more chance there is of the fish taking the food on your hook.

The fact that you are leaving the weeds in need not prevent you from pre-baiting. You can throw your groundbait among the weeds, where the tench will find it in a very short time, provided you do it often

enough, and put some little "lanes" of groundbait leading to the main portion.

You need about two or three stale loaves for each baiting, and you've got to do this at least every other day, and preferably each day, particularly for the last two or three days prior to fishing. Lots of chaps refuse to put the necessary effort into preparing to catch fish, then call someone who does do the necessary spade work a "lucky so and so" when he gets some useful fish.

SHALLOWS BEST

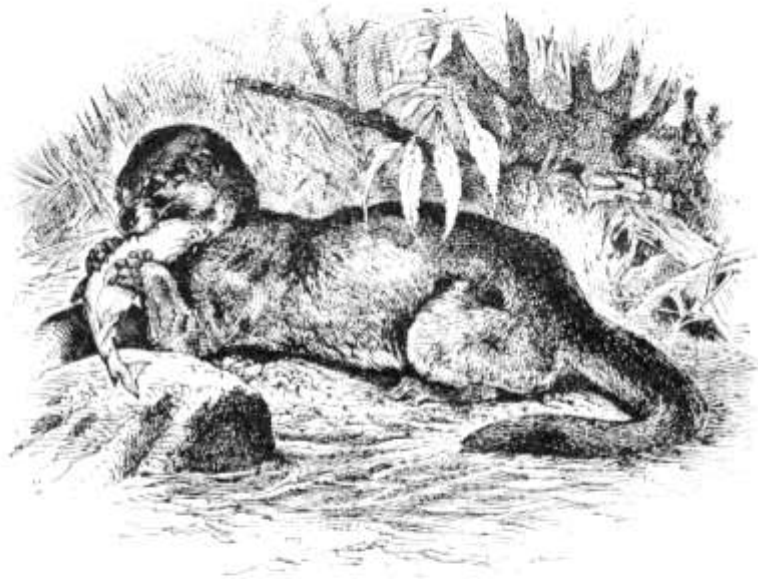
Another point to remember about baiting a pitch for tench is that early in the season, shallow pitches will by and large produce more fish than deep ones. Later on, about August time, tench spend more time in deeper water and a deep swim is better than a shallow one. Shallow pitches have a decided tendency to "fish out" fairly quickly and it is as well to bear this in mind and transfer your attentions to a new pitch at regular intervals. For although you may still catch a few fish in the original swim you may catch more or bigger ones in the new one.

Tench seem to follow definite "feeding baits" and if you have seen, or know, that big tench live in the water you are fishing, but you can only catch the small and medium ones from a certain area, a change of pitch may be the answer. Personally I'd rather risk catching no fish from a new pitch than catch the same 3-pounders I caught the previous week in the old one!

Your Waterside Companions . . .

by 'TAG' BARNES

THE OTTER - A Mammal That Out- Swims A Salmon



BEING mainly nocturnal in habits, the otter is very rarely seen by daytime anglers. Even those who do angle after dark hear the animal far more often than they see it; but, once heard, the whistle of an otter calling its mate or its young in the stillness of the night is always remembered.

I first heard it as a boy when camping on the banks of the Derbyshire Derwent; a short, sharp whistle, it was answered by another otter further down the river.

Otters love to slide, just for the fun of it, and the angler who observes this rare sight is indeed fortunate. A slippery, sloping bank leading to the river is usually chosen and sometimes the whole family can be seen taking turns to slide down on their stomachs.

MOCK BATTLE

I once watched them doing this one winter when I was out shooting in Norfolk. The snow was lying thick on the ground and I was strolling quietly along the bank of a stream deep in the heart of a wood when I spotted them. A bitch otter and two nearly full-grown young were tobog-

going down a snowy slope and hissing and squealing as they clashed in mock battle, for all the world like a party of children.

Young otters are born anytime in the year, but usually in spring or early summer. They are blind for five weeks and are suckled for six months, after which they are taught to eat fish caught by their parents. As soon as the young have been taught to hunt and catch their own food the dog otter leaves the family and doesn't return to the bitch until the next breeding season arrives.

MAIN DIET

Otters sleep and have their young in "holts," which are usually under the roots of a tree, a hole in the bank or in an old hollow tree. Often there's an entrance under water so the otter can enter or leave the holt undetected.

Their main diet is fish, which they chase and outswim. They have been known to tire and kill salmon bigger than themselves, and when you consider an otter can measure over three feet and weigh around 25 lb. you begin to wonder about your favourite trout stream!

But it is doubtful whether the otters in this country do any really serious harm to fishing. One point in their favour is the fact that they prefer eels to any other sort of fish and, as everyone knows, eels do far more damage to spawn and small fry than any other creature.

SKINNED FROGS

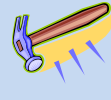
When they do take a large fish they bring it ashore and invariably take a meal from the shoulder. I have seen large trout, pike, chub and once a bream treated in this manner. If fish are found with their entrails removed it is almost certain to be rats, which have been known to drag ashore a dead carp of 15 lb.

Otters will often cross over-land from one water to another and some times vary their fish diet by killing and eating rabbits, ground-roosting birds, snakes, frogs—which they skin before eating—and worms.

But wherever they go they are unable to disguise their presence. Apart from dead fish on the bank, they always leave behind their trade mark in the form of a round, web-footed, five pointed-toed footprint.



Fisheries report



Hallow

Strimmed pegs and track to downstream car park. Dug out and repaired steps and cleaned silt off platforms. Cut back trees around platforms.

Blackstone

Strimmed pegs and access track.

Northwood Lane

Strimmed pegs, cut back trees and created a new peg downstream towards the EA measuring station.

Bolehall

Strimmed path from car park, along the bank and around the pegs. Cut back the trees around the pegs where necessary and cut back the reeds and lilies.

Have also updated the Bolehall image gallery under Where To Fish on the BAA website. There is now a full set of images for all the Bolehall pegs.

When we were working on the pegs we noticed a moorhen's nest full of eggs, the moorhen left the nest when we were around, but soon returned.



Danery

Strimmed all the pegs and the path along the top of the bank where required, we also trimmed trees around the pegs, especially the willows.

Have also updated the Danery image gallery under Where To Fish on the BAA website. There is now a full set of images for all the pegs.

Hampton Loade Left Bank

Strimmed all the pegs in meadow 3, the meadow between the car park and water works, we also trimmed trees around the pegs where required.

Have also updated the Hampton Loade Left Bank image gallery under Where To Fish on the BAA website. There is now a full set of images for all the meadow 3 pegs.

While strimming one of the pegs, Dave Gumbley found a blackbird tangled in discarded fishing line. He removed the line, fortunately the bird was uninjured and set free. Please do not discard fishing line etc as this is an example of what can happen.

Birds Meadow

Peg strimming and repairs.

Barton

Peg strimming.

Bidford left bank

Peg strimming.

Marlcliff A (up to weir)

Peg strimming, the council have cut the footpath above the weir.

Pershore LB & RB

Peg strimming.

Pershore Left Bank new car park

See photos below of new car park at Pershore to provide access for fishing above the weir as our previous access via the 'Gut' is no longer available due to the building of the hydro plant.

We think it will hold about 8 or 9 cars.

We have built a stile over the car park fence and put up a sign "NO CAR'S BEYOND THIS POINT".

The farmer will have his own chain and padlock on the gate because livestock are in the fields.

The access is through Wick as if you are going to our waters at Wick, it is the first gateway on the left past the village "end" speed limit sign. It is most important that the gates are locked on entry and exit.



New car park



Stile over car park fence to our waters



Gateway access to track to car park

These photos have also been added to the Pershore image gallery on the website.

Pershore weir hydro plant

See photos below of the electric hydro plant at Pershore weir.

Above the plant there is a fenced off area where the river has been diverted and created a reservoir for the hydro screws this is strictly "NO FISHING", signs have been put up.

Above the weir there are now 7 pegs.



Hydro plant



Upstream reservoir



Hydro plant alongside Pershore weir

Barton 'poacher'

While Colin and Maurice were giving Barton its summer haircut, Colin took the photo below on his smart phone.



Can you spot and i.d. the wildlife in the picture, ones got feathers!

Later on they came across who they thought was an angler loaded with kit walking up the bank, so Colin put his bailiff's hat on and approached the gent expecting an interesting explanation.

It turned out that Mr R Beswick, (apologies but Colin has forgotten his Christian name) is a BAA Member and also a bird watcher. They spent an interesting half hour with him showing them a Kingfishers nest he was staking out and spotted one of the parents fishing and taking the catch to feed its young.

As they were walking back to the car park Colin told Mr Beswick about the wild life they had spotted further upstream.

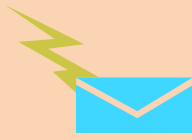
As you can imagine his camera kit was a little better than the phone camera. Subsequently Mr Beswick dropped off some photos at Colin's house which are copied below.



Kingfisher with food for young



Barton Terrapin



Readers' letters



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

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

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

Hi.

As a member of the club I find the website of great use and very informative. There is most of the information needed for a good days fishing, however the one piece of information I do not think should be on the site is the access codes to the padlocks. I would think that by publishing these we are making it easier for non-members to access the waters. As a suggestion could you not issue the padlock numbers with the membership? Maybe print them on the cards/day tickets. As an alternative you could create a secure area of the website which provides details of locations and codes which can only be accessed by providing your membership number.

Paul Godby

Ed; Thank you for your comments.

Peace & quiet!

On May bank holiday I fished at Mythe Pool. It was good to see at least 20 anglers there during the day.

However, the "field craft" of some left a lot to be desired. 2 guys continually shouted to each other when 2 pegs apart.

Then 2 others arrived, one gave a running commentary of the time and his thoughts on bait, tactics and every excuse for not catching. All this was relayed to his mate on the next peg who had his mobile on loudspeaker to a call centre! He even criticised my "pike float" in the margins. They left after a few hours having caught very little.

I caught 5 lovely bream, yes, even on a float.

Top tip "shhhh!"

NB. Thanks for looking after our angling.

Missing the peaceful rivers!

Carl Parrott

Hello.

I thought I'd let you know about my experience today at Apperley Lake.

I hooked into what i thought was some discarded line but turned out to be what I believe to be a poachers illegal hand line with at least 6 barbed hooks, maybe 10 (approx size 4). A section of braid was attached to one of the sunken posts and then some strong line with the hooks followed by a section of rubber/elastic with a stone weight at the far end. I removed this rig and have taken some photos (albeit the whole lot is now tangled up) - see attachments.

It may be worth someone checking other posts at Apperley and other lakes in the area in case this is not an isolated incident.

Regards

Mike Prince



Ed; thanks for your information which I have passed onto Kevin Pearson our Superintendant Bailiff and copied to the Management Committee.

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 10th May

**Botterham, Staffs &
Worcester Canal**

		lbs	ozs	drms
1 st	D Lloyd	5	12	0
2 nd	S Whittall	3	12	4
3 rd	A Wedgbrow	2	12	0
4 th	P Mason	2	0	0

Report: Brian Marsh