

Est. 1883



B.A.A. NEWS



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February 2015

New website

See pages 2-4

Bailiff assaulted

See page 8

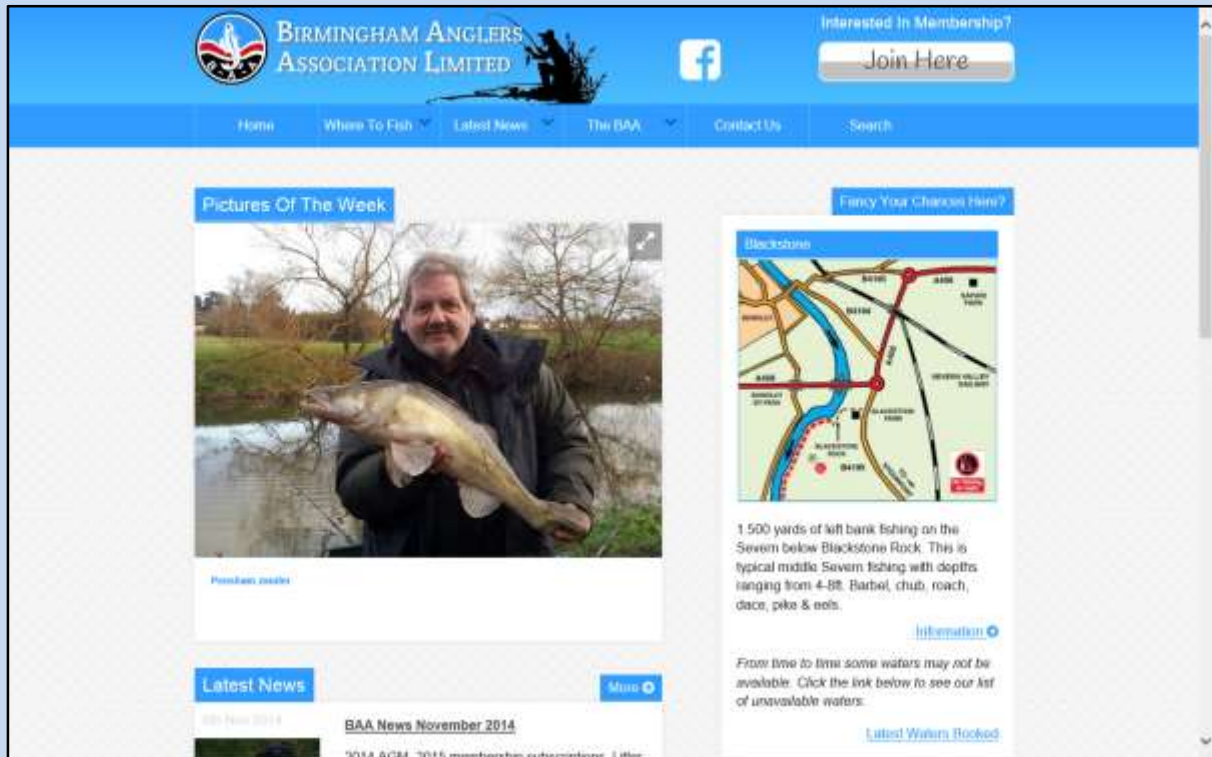
New Teme water

See page 8

New Bye-Law

See page 8

New BAA website



Top part of new home page

As we hinted in the January edition we are in the process of replacing the existing website with a totally new one, planned to go live during February. The new and existing websites will have the same web address, so you won't need to change your stored favourites etc. All that will happen is after the new site goes live you will see the new one in place of the old.

The new website will be followed by 2 further feature upgrades during the year and will deliver the following:

New website (February 2015)

- New updated look, with dropdown navigation menu on the home page.
- The website will automatically adjust the way it displays the selected page depending on the device you are using (PC, tablet, smart phone).
- Direct access to BAA Facebook page from home page.
- Where to Fish pages will also include a gallery of fishery images and access to a Google map of each fishery (see screen shots on page 3).
- Scrolling Pictures Of The Week on the Home page.
- Latest News items will be accessible from the home page. We will use this to post new items as they happen instead of having to wait a month to read about them in the BAA News. We will replace the monthly BAA News with this.

- The home page will include a weather report feed for the local area, links to enable you to download BAA documents and access to the Latest Waters Booked list.
- Information such as BAA people, rules & reg's, membership details, how to contact us as per the existing website.

Knowle Sands

Severn

Description
 This length of river is noted for its' barbel. Pleasure catches exceeding 100lbs can be had with specimens up to 10lbs. Best fished during Summer & Autumn. Swim feeder or ledger best for barbel with pellets, corn or meat as favourite baits.


Location (SATNAV)
 Lat 52°30'44"N / Long 002°23'39"W

Approaches
Knowle Sands: From Kidderminster take A442 towards Bridgnorth, turning left into lown cantra. Cross the river then turn left towards Chelmarsh. For sections 1 & 2 park in BAA car park through gate opposite the Swan Inn. For sections 3 & 4 continue to Eardington, then turn left down lane parking near sewage works.

Note: Sections 1 & 2 car park requires a long walk down hill through a wood then across a field to the river, coming back through the wood is a steep walk so travel light.


Nearest BAA Agent: Middle Severn Angling, 1 Underhill St. Bridgnorth WV16 4BB. Tel. 01746 769070.

NO FISHING AT NIGHT




Where To Fish page for Knowle Sands showing BAA Map

[BAA Map](#) [Image Gallery](#) [Google Map](#)




Knowle Sands 1&2 01



Knowle Sands 1&2 02


Knowle Sands Meadow 1 at the upstream end of the fishery.

Section 2 in the woods



Knowle Sands 1&2 03

Another peg in the wooded section 2.



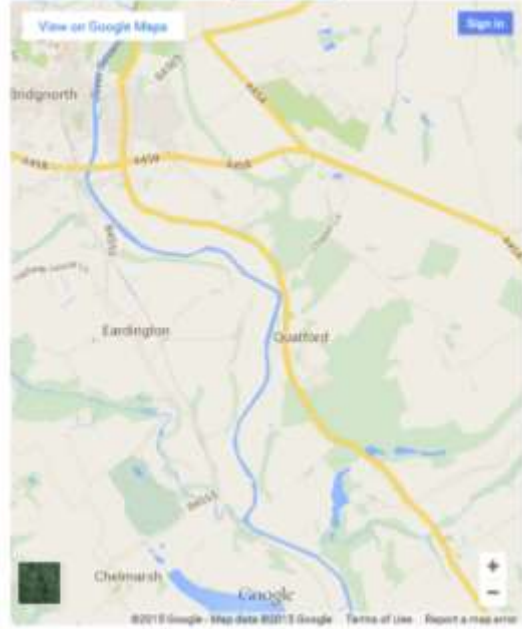
Knowle Sands 1&2 04

Still in the woods.

Scrollable image gallery for Knowle Sands

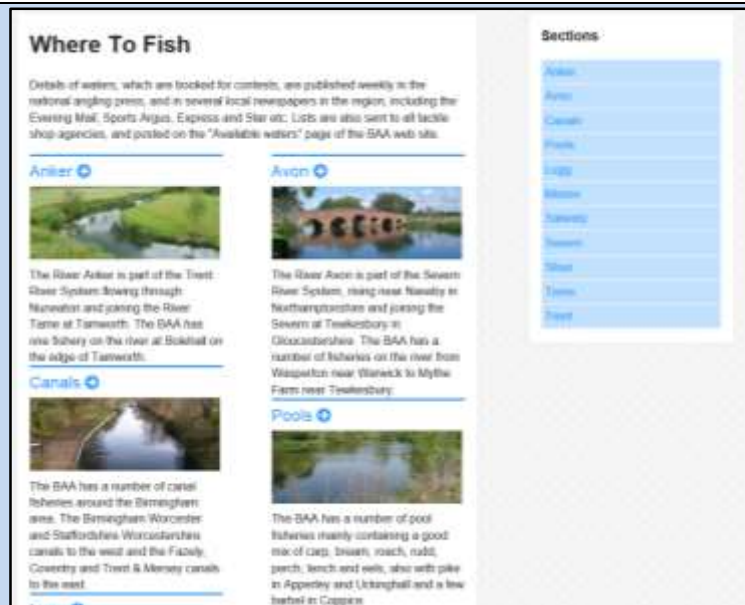
[BAA Map](#) [Image Gallery](#) [Google Map](#)

[View on Google Maps](#) [Sign In](#)



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Google Map for Knowle Sands.



Part of the Where To fish overall summary page.



Part of the Where To fish sections summary page for the Teme

Feature upgrade 1 (early 2015)

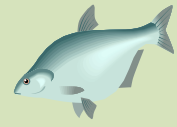
Planned to be delivered during the early part of 2015. This will deliver a Members Blog to enable current members only (user name & password controlled) to post items of interest on the Blog. This will allow members to initiate on-line discussions and exchange of information on angling items of interest. The Blog will be visible to all users of the website.

Feature upgrade 3 (late summer 2015)

The one you've all been waiting for, on-line application for membership renewal for existing and new members, this will be for annual membership only, not day tickets. Applying via the website will not provide instant renewal/membership, you will still need a valid membership card which will then be posted to you This upgrade is planned for release in late summer 2015, ready for 2016 membership renewals.



Fishing news



Craig's fishing diary



21st December went to Quatford and caught barbel and a chub in floodwater conditions.



Went to Eardington on Boxing Day and caught a few chub on bread.



Started my New Year's fishing with a trip to Stourport. Surprised BAA no longer control the stretch between the rowing club and Newhalls, was a good stretch in the past.

Really pleased that Newhalls fished well. Plan was to catch roach on the stick float with hemp and maggot. No Roach showed, however after two hours a shoal of quality dace moved into my swim and I had a frantic few hours of fishing, resulting in this double figure catch of dace.

Keep up the good work BAA, best value season ticket for Midlands's anglers well worth the small price increase this year.

Best regards Craig Cope

What crackers!



Maurice's 17lb pike



Colin's 16lb pike

Hi,

Myself and Maurice Taylor went to Pensham today.

I had a 16lb beauty and felt quite chuffed and thought I had some bragging rights, but no it only lasted an hour because Maurice hit into this fat bellied cracker weighing in at 17lb.

I had mine on a sardine hard on the bottom and Maurice was using 6 inch dace also on the bottom.

Colin Townsend

Bailiffing

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

The winter season is a time when fewer anglers are found on the banks but bailiffs still continue their checks to look after our waters, so don't be surprised if you meet one on a cold, wet morning!

Remember, bailiffs depend on the co-operation and support of members to do their work effectively and 99.9% of the time they get it. However, occasionally we do encounter problems.

In September last year we had one such incident at Arley on the River Severn when one of our bailiffs was subjected to an unprovoked assault by a member - simply for asking to inspect his membership card. Fortunately, the bailiff was able to defend himself and did not suffer any serious injury. The member was then removed from the water by Police.

The BAA committee subsequently considered the facts and gave the member the opportunity to give his account of the incident. This resulted in the following decision:

Mr Stephen Brophy of Dudley was given a LIFE BAN from re-joining the Association and banned by the landowner from all the land and fishing belonging to Arley Estate (Arley Left Bank, Right Bank & Harbour)".

The BAA works alongside the EA, Police and Angling Trust to keep our waters safe and will prosecute anyone who threatens that, so when you do meet a bailiff, please give them your support... they're doing it on your behalf!

Thank you
Kevin Pearson
Superintendent Bailiff
Birmingham Anglers' Association



Executive update



New water

The purchase of a new River Teme fishery at Doddenham has been completed. When preparation of the fishery has been completed (car parking, gates, signs etc.) details and map will be posted on the BAA website and the fishery opened for use by members.

New bye-law

It was proposed by K Pearson, and approved unanimously, that a new bye-law be introduced as follows:

C.7 Every member, whilst fishing in Association water, shall have ready to use, a landing net suitable for the purpose.



Archive extracts



Below are extracts from the February 1958 and 60 editions of the Midland Angler, the forerunner to the BAA News.

DICK WALKER'S CHOICE WAS A "CABBAGE PATCH" . . .
FRED TAYLOR PREFERRED AN "ONION BED" . . . AND NOW—



The author, a member of the Oxford Specimen Hunters' Group, with a nice brace of roach.

Give Me A 'Compost Heap'

Says PETER STONE

THE "cabbage patches" recently recommended by Richard Walker, and Fred Taylor's "onion beds," are indeed excellent places to fish, but I prefer something different—a "compost heap."

As you can imagine, I am referring to one of the many obstructions that can be found on practically any stretch of river—an obstruction formed usually by a branch of a tree that has been swept down river until it finally came to rest. Against this branch all sorts of rubbish piles up and before long it forms itself into what might be termed an aquatic compost heap.

But apart from the debris swept down by the current a "compost heap" also attracts something else—food—and, in consequence—fish. Chub, dace and roach in particular love to get out of the main current and ferret around in the rubbish. If there are trout about it is pretty certain that they too have a home not very far away.

How can you discover the whereabouts of a "compost heap"? If the river is fairly shallow, say five to six feet, it is easy to spot a likely

place by the disturbance on the water's surface. By this I mean a patch of water eddying around after hitting the obstruction. In deeper water this will not be possible, unless you take a walk along the banks in summer when the water is low and pinpoint the suitable places.

"Compost heaps" can be tackled with either float or ledger—both are equally effective—but when using the latter method it is as well to sit as close upstream of the "heap" as conditions will allow. The bait can then be comfortably cast over and beyond the obstruction so that it comes to rest where the fish are sheltering.

It will be difficult to keep a tight line, so wait until you feel a pluck, give the fish a couple of seconds and then tighten. Remember, too, that there is an obstruction between you and the fish, and that you will have to handle your roach with care to avoid getting snagged. Worms and cheese-paste are the baits I have found to be most successful when ledgering in this manner.

When float fishing it is advisable to adjust the float so that the bait is just off the bottom (an inch or so is just right) and bunch the shot about 12" from the hook. If maggots are the bait—and they are my first choice—it helps if a handful is thrown in now and again. But make sure that they come to rest your side of the "heap" and do not go over it. They will then percolate through slowly and enticingly.

Having placed yourself upstream of the "heap," the job of manoeuvring your tackle down and over may seem rather difficult. The best way is to float it down gently with only the hook and the lead in the water, then, when you know you have passed the obstruction, drop the rod point quickly so that the float cocks in just the right place. This may sound difficult but after a little practice—and maybe the loss of a few hooks!—it becomes quite easy. Whatever happens, do not be tempted to move down below the obstruction. It would certainly help you to cast and land fish more comfortably, but it would also scare away every fish that would otherwise have stayed put.

When you hook a fish try to coax him out into the open current as quickly as possible, and at the same time throw in one or two maggots (making sure that they land in the right spot) in order to give the remaining fish something to interest them.

Sounds difficult—and hard on hooks—doesn't it? But it isn't really, provided you fish with care.

Try it yourself and see. Next time your favourite stream is low and clear, take a walk along its banks and look out for a suitable bough that has come to rest on the bottom. Resist the temptation to pull it out and leave it where it is. Then, when the river rises and other debris joins it, you will have a first-rate "shop"—a "compost heap."

Your Waterside Companions . . .

by TAG BARNES

THE CORMORANT—

Glutton with
a Taste
for
Specimens



ALTHOUGH cormorants are not averse to eating the young of other sea birds, their staple diet is sea fish. Which is probably just as well, for if they ever developed a preference for freshwater fish, rather than the salt water variety, and moved permanently inland, we should have to consider packing a

shotgun with our fishing gear.

Fortunately, however, they find most of their food in the sea around our coasts, although they do occasionally take up residence on some of our larger lakes, reservoirs, etc. The size of the water on which they usually settle provides a useful cloak to the damage that cormorants do to fish life. They remove colossal numbers of fish, mainly good-sized specimens that would warm the heart of any angler.

In one instance a small number of these birds settled by a private pool on a tributary of the Hampshire Avon and in a very short time wiped out a large shoal of prime roach, many of them excellent specimens.

The cormorant is a fairly large bird, about a yard in length. The adult is black with a greenish-purple sheen to its plumage; the lower part of its face and chin are white.

Altogether it is an ungainly, awkward and uncouth bird, yet there is something about cormorants that gives them an air of arrogance and pride. I have watched them standing on rocks and looking most weird as they opened their wings to

dry their feathers in the sun.

A cormorant usually flies low over the water, its long scraggy neck outstretched and its feet trailing behind. On the water it swims low with its bill pointing upward. If alarmed, it submerges its body until only the head and neck are above the surface.

It catches its fish by diving under water and outswimming them. If the catch is extra large and active it is shaken and beaten on the surface of the water until it is subdued. I have watched, fascinated, as the prey was grasped in the bird's extendible jaws and gulped down into its elastic pouch and gullet.

The nest is usually built on rocky ledges on steep crags along the coast and is made mainly from seaweed. The smell that results from the rotting seaweed and the bird's accumulated droppings is best left to your imagination.

I believe that the cormorant, like the raven, used to be more of an inland bird but was driven to the coasts by human persecution. True or not, it is certainly a good thing from the freshwater angling point of view.



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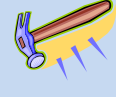
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Market Hall
Birmingham



Fisheries report



Work party activities

Due to the weather the team has only ventured out twice during January to continue the work at Nordley Pool 6, as a result the work will continue into February.

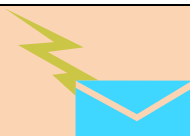
Regarding the leak in Pool 6 bank that was reported in the January edition. We have arranged for a contractor plus JCB to be at Nordley on Saturday 21st February to repair the leak and to scrape the silt off the car park surface by Pool 4. If you plan to fish Nordley on that day it would be best to use the Pool 1 car park. Team members have been keeping an eye on the water level in Pool 6 which has remained at a reasonable level.



Top of Pool 6



Pool 4 car park silt.



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.

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

No letters this month! Please get writing.