



B.A.A. NEWS



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September 2014

Night fishing rules enforcement

See Bailiffing page 2

Plenty of fish being caught in our rivers

See Fishing news pages 3 - 10

Eeling the old way!

See Archive extracts page 13

Bailiffing

'Watch out there's a bailiff about'

During August, Association bailiffs carried out evening and night checks at locations on the River Avon and River Severn, finding a number of members and non-members night fishing contrary to BAA bye laws. Over 30 anglers were asked to leave the water from four locations alone! The checks were carried out to enforce the bye laws and to inform anglers about them; however, action will be taken against anyone who continues to abuse the rules in the future.

There are a limited number of places where night angling is allowed with a night permit (see website and guide book), but on the vast majority of our venues you must not be on the water between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise.

The reasons for not allowing night fishing on BAA water include:

- A contravention of our lease for the fishing rights,
- disturbance to local residents,
- Health and Safety implications for anglers,
- more opportunities for criminal activity,
- likelihood of more litter being left on our waters.

I ask all members to make sure they are off the water by the correct time by checking sunrise and sunset times before they set out for their session and to report any illegal night fishing activity the BAA as soon as possible. Your co-operation with this issue is very much appreciated.

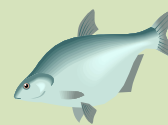
Thank you

Kevin Pearson
Superintendent Bailiff
Birmingham Anglers' Association

		September		October		November		December				September		October		November		December	
Date		Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Date		Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
1		06:18	19:56	07:09	18:45	07:04	16:38	07:55	15:58	16		06:43	19:21	07:35	18:11	07:31	16:13	08:13	15:54
2		06:20	19:54	07:10	18:43	07:05	16:36	07:57	15:57	17		06:45	19:18	07:36	18:09	07:33	16:12	08:13	15:54
3		06:22	19:51	07:12	18:41	07:07	16:34	07:58	15:56	18		06:47	19:16	07:38	18:07	07:34	16:11	08:14	15:54
4		06:23	19:49	07:14	18:38	07:09	16:33	08:00	15:56	19		06:48	19:14	07:40	18:04	07:36	16:09	08:15	15:54
5		06:25	19:47	07:15	18:36	07:11	16:31	08:01	15:55	20		06:50	19:11	07:42	18:02	07:38	16:08	08:15	15:55
6		06:27	19:44	07:17	18:34	07:13	16:29	08:02	15:55	21		06:52	19:09	07:44	18:00	07:40	16:07	08:16	15:55
7		06:28	19:42	07:19	18:31	07:15	16:27	08:03	15:54	22		06:53	19:06	07:45	17:58	07:41	16:06	08:17	15:56
8		06:30	19:40	07:21	18:29	07:16	16:26	08:05	15:54	23		06:55	19:04	07:47	17:56	07:43	16:05	08:17	15:56
9		06:32	19:37	07:22	18:27	07:18	16:24	08:06	15:54	24		06:57	19:02	07:49	17:54	07:45	16:04	08:17	15:57
10		06:33	19:35	07:24	18:24	07:20	16:22	08:07	15:54	25		06:58	18:59	07:51	17:52	07:46	16:03	08:18	15:58
11		06:35	19:33	07:26	18:22	07:22	16:21	08:08	15:53	26		07:00	18:57	06:53	16:50	07:48	16:02	08:18	15:58
12		06:37	19:30	07:28	18:20	07:24	16:19	08:09	15:53	27		07:02	18:55	06:54	16:48	07:49	16:01	08:18	15:59
13		06:38	19:28	07:29	18:18	07:26	16:18	08:10	15:53	28		07:03	18:52	06:56	16:46	07:51	16:00	08:18	16:00
14		06:40	19:26	07:31	18:15	07:27	16:16	08:11	15:53	29		07:05	18:50	06:58	16:44	07:52	15:59	08:18	16:01
15		06:42	19:23	07:33	18:13	07:29	16:15	08:12	15:54	30		07:07	18:48	07:00	16:42	07:54	15:58	08:19	16:02
										31				07:02	16:40			08:18	16:03
		September		October		November		December				September		October		November		December	
2014 sunrise/sunset times for Birmingham																			
Clocks back																			



Fishing news



Wasperton wildie



Hi

Picture enclosed of a carp I landed yesterday at Wasperton whilst after barbel. It weighed in at 10lb 2oz and took double elips pellet. I also landed a 5lb tench in the same session, but sadly no barbel.

Regards John Care

First river tench



My first River tench 3lb 8oz from Bidford on Avon RB

Regards Darren Imms

A day on the Teme



Hi

My wife and myself just back from an afternoon fishing on the river Teme at Lindridge, not been there for several years, where have all the pegs gone? We both float fish, so after setting too the under growth with my billhook and a rope we did manage to get down to allow us to wade and trot the river. In the end a pleasant day was had, saw two otters they couldn't believe what they were seeing 2 people standing in their larder! However by early evening we had a successful day, several decent chub, a small grayling and an even smaller barbel all had trotting with an Avon float, and four pints of maggots. Here's the proof and splendid 4lb 7oz chub caught by my wife. I don't think it had ever been hooked before,

Regards

Steve & Bren Williams

Lower Severn bream



Please find attached a photo of an 8lb 8oz bream taken from the lower Severn, fish taken on worm/caster hook bait. It was caught by myself and part of a 75lb haul of bream.

Many thanks

Mark Webb

Avon pike



Jamie Gormley had this 15 lb pike today (Sunday 24th August) on the Avon on a free running ledgered sardine.

From the BAA Facebook page.

Hampton Loade success



Hi

Just a heads up - had three two pound roach off the Hampton Loade stretch of the BAA card in the last two weeks on pellet fishing for barbel.

Biggest barbel in those three sessions was 8.14 (pictured) and the roach ran to 2.4 (pictured), 2.1 and 2.0.

Best regards

Neil Perkins

Simplicity is genius!



Hi,

Please find attached a picture of a 13lb barbel that I caught on 9th of August on the River Avon at Marcliff.

The fish was caught on luncheon meat. Simplicity is genius!!!!

Kind regards,

Steve Evans

Catch of the day



Hi,

Just to let you know whilst fishing an overnight session at Coppice (26/27 July) I caught a mirror carp weighing 16.4 lbs I used a homemade boilie to catch this fish. Please find attached image of the catch.

Paul Badger

Barton heads up!



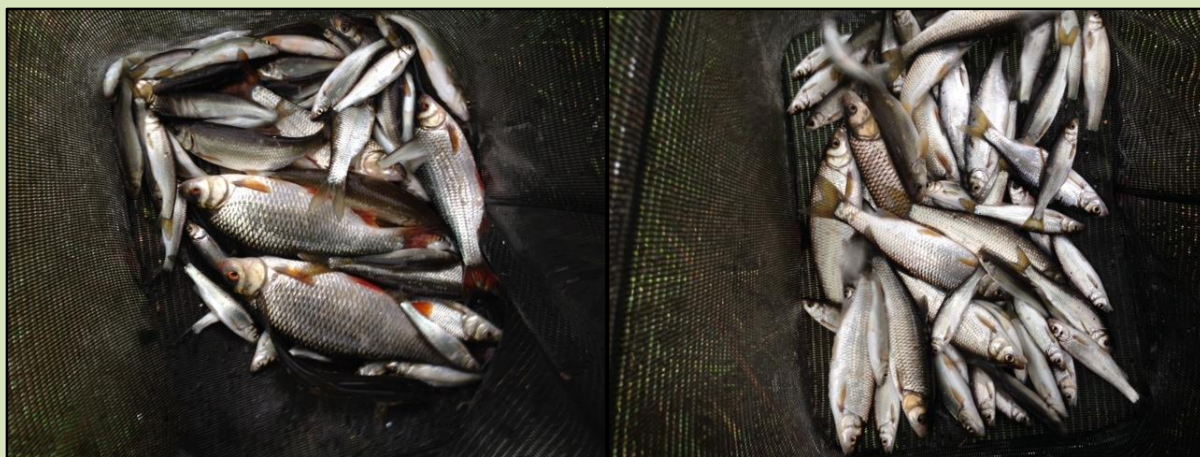
Hi

I thought I would drop you a line on Barton. It was good to see the BAA had maintained the banks and put some effort in, keeping the pegs at bay and cutting steps into the natural slopes. My fellow member Jamie and I had a cracking session with Jamie netting 3 pike up to 6lb and me a barbel of 9lb 5oz. Please find the attached pics for the magazine. Keep up the good work BAA :)

Best regards

Jim Clarke

Heaven on the Severn



The new Apley Estate water at Bridgnorth has responded well to hemp & caster approach on the stickfloat during evening sessions, lots of dace & a few quality roach showing. Thanks BAA for another fantastic stretch of the Severn.

Craig Cope.

Annual barbel trip



4 lads from Norfolk (Richard Rowell, Kim Barnett, Martin Stephenson and Jason Brewster) travelled down to the River Severn on their annual barbel trip at the end of June 2014 for 5 days.

We have been doing this for the last 18 years (with Jason filling in for Robert Bennett who could not make it this year) and this time we stayed at Dinney Farm near Chelmarsh.

Confidence was not high as the river was the lowest and clearest we'd ever seen!

However by scaling down our gear and fishing lighter lines, smaller hooks and longer hook lengths we were able to trick a number of barbel to nearly 10lb (averaging between 4-6lb) and a few quality chub to 5lb into feeding. A couple of eels also put in an appearance along with some nice roach to just over the 1lb mark.

We found by concentrating our efforts on fishing early morning and late evening sessions that the fish could be tempted and the most successful bait was a 6mm or 8mm halibut pellet fished static with 3 and 4mm pellets through the feeder.

Regular casting was not required as we found that this spooked the barbel in the clear water, however later in the week we benefited from heavy rain and the level rose a couple of inches with some colour, which switched the fish on and then more frequent casting and an 8 or 10mm pellet on the hook worked well. We tried luncheon meat and boilies but with no success, which was surprising.

Please see below our daily tally of barbel caught:-

Eardington right bank - a.m.	12 (biggest 7lb)
Eardington left bank - p.m.	5

Eardington right bank - a.m.	6
Stanley p.m.	13 (biggest 6lb)
Apley left bank - a.m.	10 (biggest 7lb)
Eardington right bank p.m.	22 (biggest 9lb 8oz)
Apley left bank a.m.	7
Eardington right bank p.m.	21 (biggest 9lb 14oz)
Well Meadow a.m.	14 (biggest 9lb 12oz)

Individual numbers were - Richard 35 barbel, - Kim 31 - Jason 28 and Martin 16, a total of 110 barbel - Fantastic fishing!

We'll be back next year for more of the same hopefully!

Tight lines!

Cheers.

Richard Rowell

More Severn barbel



On Wednesday 20th August the BAA Fisheries team was at Stanley. Working upstream from the car park we spotted Barry stood in the middle of the river trotting a float down the far side. As we watched he hooked and caught a barbel, returning to the bank to unhook and release the fish he told us he had been there since Saturday and had caught 71 barbel so far.

Fishing news record

for last 6 months

fish/catcher	lb	oz	location	method	date caught	BAA News edition
Barbel						
River Avon						
Steve Evans	13	0	Marlcliff	Luncheon meat	09/08/2014	Sept 2014
Jim Clarke	9	5	Barton			Sept 2014
River Severn						
Shaun Barrett	11	0	Arley LB	Meat	22/06/2014	July 2014
Neil Perkins	8	14	Hampton Loade	Pellet		Sept 2014
John Snape	8	12	Arley	Double 8mm pellet	21/06/2014	July 2014
Pools						
Kevin Smith	6	12	Coppice		19/06/2104	July 2014
Roger O'Malley	5		Coppice	Spiced luncheon meat	May 2014	June 2014
Graham Beck	5		Coppice		mid March	July 2014
Graham Beck	4		Coppice		mid March	July 2014
Bream						
River Severn						
Mark Webb	8	8	Lower Severn	Worm/caster hook bait		Sept 2014
Pools						
Kevin Smith & Son	4	1	Coppice		04/04/2014	May 2014
Common Carp						
River Avon						
John Care	10	2	Wasperton	Double elips pellet	03/08/2014	Sept 2014
Pools						
Dan Hancox	22	3	Coppice		26/07/2014	Aug 2014
Graham Beck	21	8	Coppice	Bread flake	mid March	July 2014
Roger O'Malley	16	0	Coppice	Halibut pellet/corn		June 2014
Mirror Carp						
Pools						
Paul Badger	16	4	Coppice	Homemade boilie	26/07/2014	Sept 2014
Kevin Smith	15	13	Coppice		15/07/2014	Aug 2014
Kevin Smith	15	9	Coppice		15/07/2014	Aug 2014
Kevin Smith	15	1	Coppice		15/07/2014	Aug 2014
Kevin Smith	14	13	Nordley 2		31/05/2014	July 2014

Chub

				River Severn		
John Morgan	4	13	Holt Fleet	Worm	30/06/2014	Aug 2014
				River Teme		
Brenda Williams	4	7	Lindridge	Trotted maggot	21/08/2014	Sept 2014

Pike

				River Avon		
Jamie Gormley	15	0		ledgered sardine	24/08/2014	Sept 2014

Roach

				River Severn		
Neil Perkins	2	4	Hampton Loade			Sept 2014
Neil Perkins	2	1	Hampton Loade			Sept 2014
Neil Perkins	2	0	Hampton Loade			Sept 2014

Tench

				River Avon		
John Care	5	0	Wasperton	Double elips pellet	03/08/2014	Sept 2014
Darren Imms	3	8	Bidford RB			Sept 2014

Apley event – Vdubs in the valley

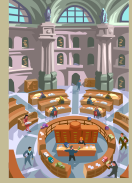


We have received notification that a rally of classic Volkswagen vehicles has been organised over the weekend of 19 - 21 September to be held on the two fields adjacent to our new fishery at Apley. Full details can be found at: www.vdubsinthevalley.co.uk

They are expecting a large turnout of both vehicles and people and they have assured us that parking and access to the fishing will be maintained for our members, however the public are being charged to enter and park.



Archive extracts



Below are extracts from the September 1958 and 59 editions of the Midland Angler, the forerunner to the BAA News.

IF YOU HAVEN'T TRIED EELING . . .

You Don't Know What You're Missing

says

FRANK GUTTFIELD

WHEN one considers how many of our waters hold large numbers of big eels, it is surprising how very few anglers fish for them. Why this is I cannot imagine, for the eel is unquestionably one of the best fighters of all freshwater fish; it is also one of the few that is of any use from the eating point of view.

Maybe it is an inborn fear of all wriggly creatures that makes many anglers avoid eels at all costs; maybe their lack of interest is due to the fact that an eel is a tough customer, still capable of fighting like mad after he had been landed. Whatever the objections, I am certain that if anti-eel anglers changed their views they would never regret it.

To make the most of eel fishing it is as well to bait up your chosen pitch in advance—three or four days beforehand if possible. Almost anything—chopped up fish, entrails, meat, etc.—will attract eels, so there is no need to be particular. Long casting in order to reach the dearest water is often necessary, so I always use the “paper bag” method of baiting. I simply fill paper bags (not greaseproof) with the chopped up bait and, using a marker of some sort on the opposite bank, throw them out so that they are concentrated in one small area.

Tackle must be strong if you are to stand any chance at all of landing a good eel—none of your 2 or 3 lb. lines, or you will very soon realise the error of your ways. You will need every ounce of a 7 lb. or even 10 lb. line to be reasonably sure of coping with an eel of only 2 lb. The hook too must be big and strong. I usually use a No. 4 single eyed hook or a No. 6 treble tied direct to the line below a ledger weight.

Many eel fishers insist on using wire traces—why, I don't know. They would not dream of using them for tench or chub, so why use



To the unconverted they are repulsive, slimy nuisances. To the addict they represent a tasty meal as well as exciting sport.

them for eels? Eels cannot bite through a nylon line; neither can a pike or chub. The surface area of their teeth is too small. On the rare occasions that a line is severed,

it is usually the result of the friction caused when the line rubs against the teeth—or a faulty line! Play safe if you wish by using a light wire trace, but in my view they are an unnecessary luxury. What is absolutely essential is a powerful rod capable of withstanding the incredible pull of a determined eel.

There is no argument either about the best bait for eels. It is a freshly-killed roach about four inches long threaded on to the line with a baiting needle. A useful tip here is to make sure that the swim bladder is pierced by passing the baiting needle through the vent and out through the mouth before attaching the hook. This will ensure that the bait remains on the bottom of the river and will not tend to rise in the water.

Eel fishing makes a pleasant and relaxing change from high speed match fishing, for when a bite comes there is usually no need for a lightning-like strike. An eel usually mouths the bait, runs a few yards, stops to swallow what he has found and then runs off again. I have seen eels pick up a bait and run with it 40 yards before stopping. They are like chickens. They grab their food, run off with it—and then eat it.

So when you get your run (detected by a buzzer or a silver paper indicator) don't panic. And don't panic either when you feel the power a good eel can exert. If it is a good 'un, just pump and wind for all you are worth until he comes to the net, which incidentally must be a really big one. Don't give him an inch of slack or you will regret it. And, once he's ashore, forget about trying to remove the hook. It's much quicker and easier to cut the line and tie on a new hook—or, better still, use hooks tied to short lengths of nylon loored at the end and attached to the line with a link spring so that they can be removed easily.

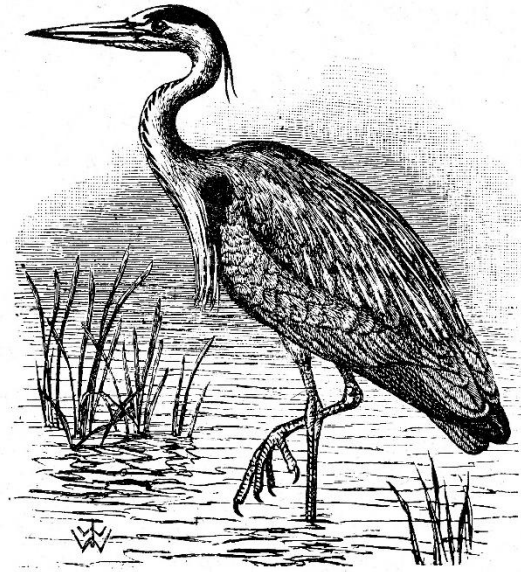
Your Waterside Companions . . .

by 'TAG' BARNES

The Heron

— Eel Catcher Supreme

UNDOUBTEDLY one of the easiest of our waterside birds to recognise is the heron. Standing by the water's edge it's tall (over three ft. when fully grown) gaunt, grey figure is unmistakeable. In flight the slow flapping of its blunt wings and the long extended legs make the bird equally easy to distinguish.



But don't be deceived by those wing beats. Although they appear to be very slow you may be interested to make the experiment of timing them and discovering that they beat twice every second.

Heron usually nest in large colonies in what are called heronries, building their huge, bulky nests high in the tree-tops. They return year after year to the same nest and lay their three to five eggs often as early as January. The eggs are a light greenish-blue in colour with a rough surface.

Heron in any quantity could do quite a bit of damage to a small fishery. Their appetites seem insatiable and their diet is most varied, seeming to stop at nothing that can be accommodated in their distensible neck and gullet.

Although fish form the major part of their food, they are equally partial to frogs, young birds and rats. Among fish, eels seem to be their favourite meal and when possible herons will gorge themselves on these until they seem too full to fly.

In one recorded instance a heron was so greedy that it endeavoured to kill an eel far too big to cope with and was in fact itself strangled by its

powerful adversary, which twisted itself around the heron's neck like a snake.

At one time it was thought that herons had the power of attracting fish and in the old days when flavoured baits were more popular, some anglers extracted the oil from the skin of heron's legs by boiling them. The residue was then mixed in with the ground bait, or smeared on to the hook bait.

If ever you come across a wounded heron be careful how you approach it. I once went to assist one that had been shot in the wing and might have lost an eye for my pains. The bayonet-like, six-inch long beak of these birds stabs with great rapidity and they know just where to aim. Inquisitive dogs that get near enough have been known to lose an eye. In addition to being needle sharp their beaks are equipped with small teeth that enable them to hold their prey.

Heron is seldom seen swimming. In fact I did not know if they could swim until I saw the bird that nearly blinded me cross with great ease a wide stretch of the Upper Ouse. I have since seen them take to water in zoos, but, apart from the Ouse incident, never in their natural surroundings.

Calling all Fishermen

Phone 307

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to order, with action to your personal
requirement.

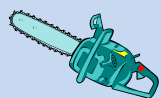
Please write for full details

John Harris

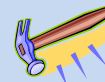
FISHING TACKLE
CORN AND SEED

Please note new address:

174 WHEELER ST., LOZELS,
BIRMINGHAM 19.
Phone: NOR 1005



Fisheries report



River Teme	Work done	August date
Cotheridge	Strimmed and dug out pegs up and downstream. Strimmed track and car park.	4
Lindridge	"	6
Eardiston Mill	"	11
Stanford Bridge	"	13
Bransford	"	18
River Severn		
Stanley	"	20
Kinlet	"	27
Bird Meadow	"	27
Ripple	"	27
River Avon		
Park Farm	"	5
Chadbury Meadows	"	5
Pools		
Uckinghall Pool	Cut back trees around pegs, dragged weed from pool.	13

Fly Tipping

We are aware of recent fly tipping in the car park at Cotheridge, one of the reasons for this is the yellow steel 'goal-posts' across the access track which are there to prevent access by trucks have been cut-off and stolen.

Fly Tippers have left more rubbish in the Chadbury Meadow car park we did have a rummage around for address labels etc, to help identify the culprits but nothing.

We will be arranging to remove the rubbish, if you see any fly tipping at our fisheries, please let us know.



Coppice coir rolls

The coir rolls put in Coppice Lake along the dam bank last year included plants which were supposed to grow in the rolls to add vegetation to the lake, after a year in place, there has been very little plant growth in the rolls.

A representative of the company that supplied the coir rolls visited Coppice to identify the cause of the problem. He believes that the plants had been eaten by the resident geese, this is backed up by the fact that the only plants that grew in the rolls are flag iris which are too tough for the geese to tackle.

We have a ready supply of flag iris plants and plan to replant the coir rolls with them in the near future. This should add plant growth to the rolls helping to protect the bank and improve the appearance of the lake whilst hopefully being geese proof.



Readers' letters

If you have any items, thoughts, issues you want to air in the BAA news, please email it to baajn@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.

I wish to make a complaint about the state of the Walcot Hall Lake, I purchased 2 day permit tickets from Fishermans Friend at the Maypole. Birmingham [numbers 6453, 6454] on 27/07/2014. On reaching Walcot Lake can I say how disappointed I was with the lack of care which has been taken over which was once a wonderful fishery. The path to the none existent pegs was full of cow dung, when getting to the only part of the lake which was fishable we was met with a pile of weed approximately 3ft high at the bank. We then had to try to clear a space by hand to be able to fish, now at £8.00 per ticket plus the £20.00 worth of diesel plus the bait brought to fish an unfishable venue, I find this totally unacceptable, I eagerly await your response.

James Ravenall

Ed; James, due to the distance from Birmingham, accessibility and amount of use, a small number of or fisheries take a lower priority when the Fisheries Teams time and resource is being allocated. Walcot East is one of these.

Thought I would bring something to your attention if you do not already know....

On Saturday 16th August I went fishing on the River Teme at Cotheridge. The car parking area has been "fly-tipped". I don't know when this has happened because it was 1st visit to this venue.

On the subject of rubbish, perhaps you could remind members in the newsletters of their responsibility to take their rubbish home.

I fished 5 or 6 swims on Saturday & collected approx. 3 carrier bags worth of rubbish from these swims; empty pellet plastic packaging, meat tins, sweetcorn tins etc.... someone had even gone to the trouble of "bagging" all of their rubbish & then left it there.

Best Regards

Mark Harris

Ed; thanks for letting us know about Cotheridge fly tipping (see Fisheries report above).

Hi,

I lost a tube containing three quiver tips for a John Wilson Rovex Avon Rod at Arley on Saturday 9th August. The tube fell out of my rod bag on the footpath on my walk to the swim.

Can you let me know if anyone found them or put this in the next newsletter?

Also, every time I fish Arley there is always a disgusting amount of litter on the banks, plastic bags, empty tins, beer can etc. which will obviously wash into the River system during flood.

I always clear this up and take it away with me, but I think it would be a good idea to implement a heavy fining system that can be administered by Bailiffs or other members to punish the culprits.

This type of behaviour is unacceptable especially from Anglers who by the very nature of their sport should also be Conservationists.

Kind regards

James Gittins Direct: 0121 661 7062 Mobile: 07799 186186

Hi,

I believe I have left my reel on one of the pegs of the River Teme at Broadwas. It is a Drennan Feeder Reel, as was contained within a Preston Innovations hard case. I have since returned to the stretch, but have not found it. Would it be possible to put a lost property request in the newsletter?

On a positive note, early season fishing on the Teme at Bransford, Cotheridge, Broadwas and Stanford Bridge has been good, with some big Chub, Dace and Trout showing on the 'wag and mag'.

Thanks in advance, Mark Rose mob: 07767807034

Angling Trust

Media Release



Anglers launch legal challenge against canoeing National Governing Bodies

Following a steady increase in complaints of canoe trespass incidents from angling clubs and fishery owners, Fish Legal has sent a legal 'letter before action' to the British Canoe Union (BCU), Canoe Wales (CW) and Canoe England (CE) demanding that they stop publishing information suggesting that there is a general right of navigation on non-tidal waterways in England and Wales, and/or that the law relating to navigation on rivers is unclear. There is no such general right of navigation in law and permission for access is required for people to use boats on rivers.

Fish Legal and the Angling Trust have written repeatedly to the BCU over the past few years to explain the law and to ask that incorrect information is removed from web sites and other publications, but these requests have been ignored. Legal action to force these organisations to stop publishing this information - which can encourage unlawful behaviour - now seems to be the only option. The action will be backed by subscription income from Fish Legal members along with donations made over the past year from more than 100 angling clubs to the Sustainable Access Campaign Cymru.

A response to the 'letter before action' is pending and the Angling Trust and Fish Legal hope that taking this formal step may encourage the BCU, CE and CW to resolve matters constructively, without the need to go to court.

Fish Legal will seek 'declaratory relief' through the courts unless BCU, CW and CE amend their publications and stop publishing inaccurate information about the law to their members and the public. The recent upsurge in unlawful canoeing in England and Wales has damaged the rights of several angling clubs and fishery owners. Many canoeists have the false impression that they can take their boats down rivers wherever and whenever they like. The Angling Trust and Fish Legal believe that the actions of BCU, CW and CE have contributed to this widespread trespass.

Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive of the Angling Trust and Fish Legal said: "We are taking action to stop the canoeing governing bodies publishing inaccurate information and to protect the rights of our member angling clubs and riparian owners. This may now include court proceedings. Our members have often tried to make agreements with canoeing clubs for greater access, with reasonable conditions to protect the water environment and avoid interference with fishing. However, these offers are repeatedly rejected, because the canoeing governing bodies insist that such agreements must allow unlimited access, or that permission is not needed."

He added: "We hope that this legal action, if it proves necessary, will settle beyond any doubt the issue of rights to navigate on rivers. We need the canoeing governing bodies to recognise that the law is clear and that permission is required. If this occurs, then we will be happy to work closely with them and our members to develop access agreements which make it possible for more people to go canoeing more often, without breaking the law or unreasonably interfering with angling."

Police Chief pledges to act on fish theft

The Angling Trust has won support from the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to ensure that all Chief Officers in England and Wales will receive training about poaching and fish theft, and pass this on to their operational staff. The National Policing Lead for Wildlife & Rural Crime, Simon Prince (Chief Constable of Dyfed Powys), one of the most senior police officers in the country, has given his backing to the initiative which will ensure that the police respond properly to reports of poaching and fish theft.

To date, anglers have been frustrated when reporting criminal offences connected with poaching and fish theft to the police due to confusion amongst call-handlers and operational police officers who have not been aware of their duties and responsibilities in this area.

Retired police officer and Angling Trust National Enforcement Manager Dilip Sarkar MBE has been working to address this issue with the National Wildlife Crime Unit and individual forces over the past two years.



ACPO comprises Chief Officers - the nation's "Top Cops" - and in response to the evidence presented to him by Dilip Sarkar, the National Policing Lead for Wildlife & Rural Crime, Mr Simon Prince, Chief Constable of Dyfed Powys, said:

"As fish poaching can happen at any time and anywhere, I agree that there needs to be a greater awareness within the police service of the legislation that can be used to combat the problem. I have therefore caused a briefing note to be created and distributed to all Chief Officers in England & Wales, to be cascaded down to call-taking staff and operational police officers. That, together with the work the Angling Trust has been carrying out with our network of Wildlife Crime Officers, will hopefully achieve the outcome that we all desire".

Angling Trust National Enforcement Manager, Dilip Sarkar MBE said: "This is a massive step forward, which will bring an end to what, for anglers, has been an unacceptable situation. We understand that the problem was caused by an omission in training and it is great that this will finally be addressed. We are, however, entirely supportive of the problems faced by the police today, and share ACPO's desire to work in partnership. We are extremely grateful to Mr Prince in particular, and to the National Wildlife Crime Unit, for essential and ongoing understanding and support - which ultimately means poachers will increasingly find themselves with criminal records and being prosecuted".

Dale Whittaker, Secretary of Nottinghamshire Piscatorial Society, said: "We have recently reported a number of incidents to the local police but officers have clearly been confused and their response sometimes inappropriate. This has then taken time for the Angling Trust to resolve with Nottingham Police - so this is great news, because at last it means that police staff will be properly informed and can get things right from the start. This is a terrific step forward and we commend all involved".

Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive of the Angling Trust said: "Many fishery owners and angling clubs have, quite rightly, been pressing us to take this issue to the highest level. I am very grateful to ACPO and to Chief Constable Prince for their support in bringing poachers to book for the damage that they do to fish stocks, to rural businesses and to the enjoyment of millions of anglers. We hope that more prosecutions will send a clear message to the poachers and fish rustlers that they cannot get away with criminal activity any longer."

Anglers can find all they need to know about reporting offences to the police [HERE](#).

Match Reports

If you want to report the results of a contest you have organised on BAA waters, please email details.

	lbs	ozs	drms	
Blue Ball AC	Sunday 20th July	Hallow 4 & 5, River Severn		
1 st K Spence	7	12		
2 nd I Halford	7	0		
3 rd P Mason	5	5		
Report from - B Marsh				
West Body AC	Saturday 26th July	Bredon, River Avon		
1 st K Cox	10	2		
2 nd J Flood	6	9		
3 rd I Stanton	6	2		
4 th D Jones	5	5		
Report from - J Flood				
Blue Ball AC	Sunday 10th August	Newhalls Meadow, River Severn		
1 st P Mason	3	13		
2 nd D Lloyd	3	1		
3 rd J Matthews	2	7		
Report from - B Marsh				
Halesowen RBL	Sunday 17th August	Wasperton, River Avon		
1 st Ken Whitmore	8	11	0	Peg 15, one 8lb carp on feeder and caster with a few bits on stick float.
2 nd Brian Smith	4	15	9	Peg 5, dace and roach on wagler &
3 rd Lawrie Mulheron	4	12	0	Peg 24, mainly perch on stick float & maggot.
Report from - Lawrie Mulheron			A difficult match in low and clear conditions, 24 anglers fished.	
Companions AC	Sunday 17th August	Quatford, River Severn		
1st Bye No286				
1 st Leighton Jarvis	9	0		
2 nd John Smith	5	6		
3 rd Dave Webb	3	4		
Report from - Dave Gumbley				