


B.A.A. NEWS



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November 2014

2014 AGM

This will take place at 8:00pm

Thursday 13th November at:

100 Icknield Port Rd

Birmingham

B16 0AA

Entry is subject to production of a valid 2014 membership card

2015 membership subscriptions

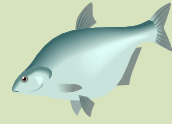
See page 6

Litter, Litter, Litter

See Readers Letters pages 11-14



Fishing news



Bigger net required!



Hi,

Saturday 27 Sep - Went for a roaching session on the Severn at Ladyham, but on a low sluggish river, I caught a few perch and dace, but the roach didn't really want to play. The BAA guide mentions 'occasional large barbel' so I swapped to the lead to give it a try. The result is in the picture - 12lb 2oz taken on hair-rigged spam - and the next time I fish Ladyham, I'll take a bigger net!

Regards,

Dave Hutton

Fisheries fish!



Hi,

Working party volunteers Spud Taylor and Pete Jones took time out from fighting the wild vegetation to fighting and landing the attached beautiful specimens.

Spud fished downstream in the wooded area at Pensham to pick up this fine looking 12 1/2lb pike taken on ledger sea bait.

The second photo shows Pete with a 16lb 12oz mirror carp taken at Ripple, the capture of this fantastic conditioned river carp rounded off a memorable days bream fishing where Pete had also caught and landed had a 9 lb barbel together with a net of bream to 40lb. Pete was fishing red maggot, worm and ground bait.

Regards,

Colin Townsend

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						
Dave Hutton	12	2	Ladyham	Hair rigged Spam	27/09/2014	Nov 2014
Shaun Barrett	11	0	Arley LB	Meat	22/06/2014	July 2014
Gaynor Wade	9	0	Arley Harbour Inn			Oct 2014
Pete Jones	9	0	Ripple		27/09/2014	Nov 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
Pete Jones	7	10	Birds Meadow	Corn		Oct 2014
Colin Townsend	6	0	Birds Meadow			Oct 2014
Pools						
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

River Severn						
Pete Jones	16	12	Ripple	Double red maggot	27/09/2014	Nov 2014
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						
Peter Wade	5	10	Arley LB			Oct 2014
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		ledged sardine	24/08/2014	Sept 2014
Spud Taylor	12	8	Pensham	Float fished deadbait		Nov 2014
Harry Treadwell	9	0	Pershire	Float fished single maggot		Oct 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
Gordon Beardsmore	4	11	Pensham		31/08/2014	Oct 2014
Darren Imms	3	8	Bidford RB			Sept 2014



Executive update



2015 membership subscriptions

The Management Committee recommended that the membership subscriptions for 2015 should be amended as follows;

	2014	2015	Change
Full	£35	£40	+£5
Senior	£25	£30	+£5
Junior	£15	£15	No change
Family	£75	£80	+£5
Infant	£2	£2	No change
Non-Fishing	£10	£10	No change

The reasons for the changes to subscriptions are;

Subscriptions have been frozen for the past 2 years whilst our costs have been steadily increasing. It is therefore necessary for the increases to enable the Association to continue to fund activities such as maintenance and improvements to facilities.

A flat rate of £5 rather than a percentage increase has been applied to full, senior and family membership subscriptions. Applying the same increase to full and senior membership reflects that senior members generally can fish our waters 7 days a week, whilst full members are often restricted to fishing evenings and weekends due to work commitments. The new £80 cost of family membership is the equivalent of two adults (£40 full membership each) with children fishing free.

The junior membership subscription was unchanged to help encourage youngsters. Infant and non-fishing were also unchanged as only a small number of these low price memberships are sold.

Walcot Lake

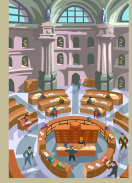
It has been proposed that a survey of Walcot Lake be carried out in order to determine which fishery management techniques may be suitable to improve the fishery.

Uckinghall Pool

Due to erosion caused by wave action the left hand side bank (when viewed from the car park) requires stabilising and reinforcing. An on-site meeting with contractors is to be arranged.



Archive extracts



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



Its Piking Time Again

says ALLEN EDWARDS

The "I Like Pike" fraternity remove the hooks with care and return baby pike of this calibre.

NO one will deny that the pike is an unusual fish and probably the only one that is capable of dividing anglers into two extreme schools of thought—the "I like pike" fraternity, or the "I hate the brutes" crowd.

Now I belong to the first group. The pike stirs in me a feeling of intense regard. The sight of "pikey" water always affects my imagination by flashing into my mind's eye a series of possible underwater scenes. I visualise at the under-water's edge the dense, closely-knit roots of the reeds inhabited, in some of their darker retreats, by the long and sinuous bodies of young "jack" pikes, lying in shallow water, barred and rakish, ever-hungry and keeping to their holts as much for self defence as to facilitate the seizing of their prey.

I also see the picture of a larger fish, some two years older, a little longer and a great deal thicker, and usually more active than the smaller "jack". He has lost his bars, which have been replaced by a wonderful dappled effect of quite brilliant primrose on green. This pike has no need to skulk like the younger ones though he does, of course, lie motionless on the bottom

for long periods, usually in or over a bed of weeds from which he will make his sudden, and often nosy, swirling rushes.

The third scene that springs to mind is of the old and hoary leviathan lying in solitary state, cold eyes swivelling up towards the shallow water, ready at times to feed on the second-stage pike or indeed anything that moves across his line of vision at not too great a speed. This pike is big because as a "jack" he couldn't be tempted from his lair in the reed roots. He missed the spoons and plugs at which he struck and was fortunate to escape being properly hooked on the one or two occasions he had seized a live bait. His cunning and a super-sensitivity had kept him clear of fish, or anything fish-like, to which a line was attached, and only at the peak of his voracious feeding periods is he now likely to be taken in by an angler's bait.

You probably consider what I have written up to now as highly fanciful, yet I believe the pike population of most waters is made up in the way I have described. Most waters contain plenty of small pike—fellows who take the live bait that has been swept into the side by wind or current or a plug worked slowly past the edge of the conveniently placed weed. The proportion of these smaller fellows compared with the other two classes is very high indeed.

The pike who has lived longer does not come our way quite so often. He is the one who often swirls violently just short of the surface plug. He takes the live bait with deliberation and, unlike the "jack," who takes his prey back into his lair, heads for the deeper water before turning and swallowing it. We catch a few but not as many as the younger pike.

The really big chap, the local "terror" about which the angling, and indeed quite often the national press weave such wonderful stories of broken tackle, seldom comes our way. He can be caught, of course, but, as is the case with most specimen fish hunting, much time has to be spent planning his capture.

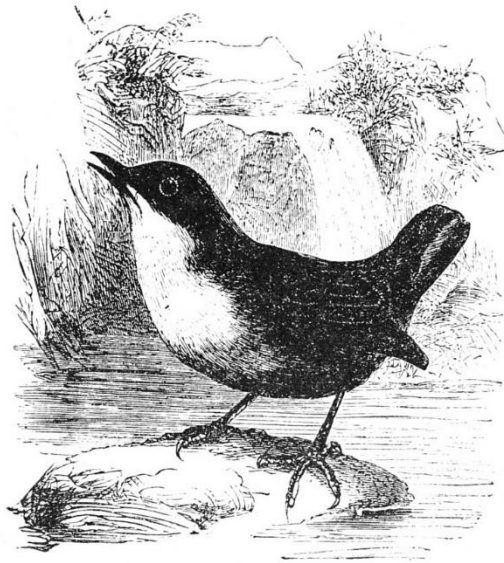
Already the leaves are falling; and soon the trees will be bare and frost will whiten the yellowed grass and shrivelled reeds. Another piking season is with us. The "jacks" will be in their holts in all but the bitterest of weather. The bigger pike will roam a little more now that the weed has gone but they won't move far from their usual haunts. The really big fellow will also stay put unless, on one of his periodic feeding rampages, he is forced to quit his lair to chase a shoal of roach or dace. Then it is possible that some lucky angler will be in the right place at the right time to drop a bait on the end of his nose and eventually have his picture in the papers.

It could be my turn, for as I have said before, I like pike. I have caught a great many small "jacks" a, few medium-sized fish but never a big one.

Is this year going to be different? I hope so, but whether I succeed in catching a monster or not I am certainly glad its piking time again.

Your Waterside Companions . by 'TAG' BARNES

THE WATER OUZEL —Songster of the Hills



THE Water Ouzel, or Dipper, as it is more often called, is a most remarkable bird. Internally it is constructed like a thrush, yet it is really an aquatic species. Its diet consists of all kinds of water insects, small shell fish and fish fry, which it catches beneath the surface of a river or pool by propelling itself along with both wings and feet. It can also swim when necessary, even though its feet are not webbed.

Dippers normally frequent running streams in remote hill country but they can be found in the most unexpected places. A pair of them can be seen on a stream not four miles from the centre of Sheffield, where they have successfully nested for many years despite the fact that it is a popular picnic spot.

These dark-coloured short-tailed birds, about the size of a starling, have a very distinctive white breast and throat. They are not so shy as Kingfishers and will often perch on a stone in midstream and bob up and down,

displaying their white waist-coats.

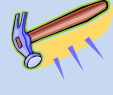
The nest is a domed affair made of moss and lichen and dry leaves with an entrance hall near its base. Usually the nest is built in a crevice in the river bank, in nearby rock, or among the exposed roots of a bank-side tree.

Sometimes it can be found *behind* a waterfall, which necessitates the bird flying through the water each time it visits or leaves the nest. I remember on one occasion finding a nest in an even stranger place—the spokes of a disused water wheel. The eggs, which number from four to six, are laid as early as March.

The Dipper's preference for hilly districts has resulted in it being seen more in Scotland than elsewhere. But keep your eyes open next time you visit some remote hill stream in Wales or elsewhere. You may have the pleasure of seeing a Dipper sitting on a grassy boulder and singing its unmistakeable low and melodic song.



Fisheries report



Fisheries Working Party

Historically, the work of clearing pegs was organised by the BAA and mostly undertaken by clubs affiliated to the BAA, with a group of volunteers working mid-week. As the number of clubs, and their memberships, declined more and more work has been undertaken by volunteers. Some members exercise their initiative and clear pegs they wish to fish themselves and for this, we are very grateful.

Today, the Fisheries Working Party is responsible for maintaining over 80 river and still water venues which collectively have well over 5000 match pegs. The work includes platform and step maintenance, bank strimming and tree pruning as well as clearing access tracks and footpaths to venues. The Severn Way, for example, is seldom kept clear by local authorities and this clearly adds to the work of the group.

This work is done from early May through to mid-September and the group is out two days a week and aims to visit all the venues at least once.

During the Autumn, Winter and Spring months the work party go out according to the needs of specific venues, weather and river levels permitting. At the start of the 'strimming season', the work party focuses on match venues as well as the most popular venues. This means that it is inevitable that some venues will not be visited until August.

The following questions are frequently asked by members.

1. Why doesn't the work party start clearing pegs earlier in the year so that all venues are ready for the start of the season?

If the work is started too early, then many venues would be totally overgrown within a few weeks of the river season opening. The weather clearly has a significant impact on how quickly balsam, nettles, brambles etc. re-grow

2. Why doesn't the work party go out more often or visit venues more than once?

It should be remembered that all members of the work party are volunteers as well as being anglers themselves and most are also bailiffs. Some venues do have a second visit when time permits.

3. Why doesn't the BAA employ contractors to do the work instead?

The employment of contractors would result in a substantial increase in costs which could only be covered by a significant increase in membership fees.

4. Why is the vegetation, and also trees, cut back so much?

If the work party only did enough to allow access to a peg, then within a few weeks many pegs would not be fishable.

The work party currently has just 10 members which means, on average, each member is responsible for clearing over 500 pegs, in addition to the work on platforms, steps, tracks and footpaths. The Association is looking for more volunteers to boost work party numbers. If you can spare one or two days a week (Mondays and/or Wednesdays), like to keep fit and would enjoy working with a great team, then please contact John Williams, BAA Secretary, on 01562 882116 (Mon.- Fri., 9.30 - 2.00).

Travelling expenses are paid and all the necessary equipment and safety wear is provided. All work party members are covered by the BAA's insurance.

Work done in October

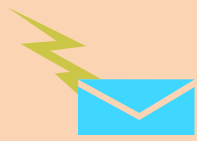
River Severn	Work done	Oct date
Bushley	First cut / dig steps.	8
Alveley	First cut / dig steps.	8
Stanley/Kinlet	Burn timber cut back on previous visits	22
Severn Stoke	Second cut / dig steps.	28
Claines	Second cut / trim trees	29
River Avon		
Eckington	Second cut	6
Nafford	Second cut	6
Wood Norton	Second cut	13
Barton	Second cut / dig steps.	20
Bidford LB	Second cut	22

Stanley/Kinlet burn-up



Alveley





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.



Over the last week-end myself and two other members of the BAA travelled to Bridgnorth to fish the Brook Section at Erdington, when we arrived in the car park we were shocked to see a vast amount of rubbish all fishing related (dirty t-towels empty hook packets, luncheon meat tins) and a bonfire site As we made our way over to the Brook Section things went from bad to worse. In the first swim on the left was a large bonfire site with up to 18 beer cans scattered in and around the ashes of the bonfire.

On reaching the swim known as the cattle drink an even larger bonfire site again with a great assortment of drinks cans were scattered all over the swim again with lots of empty fishing meat containers, hook packets, crisp packets and plastic bags with further rubbish in them.

Walking further along the meadow we then came upon another swim and this time we counted 24 beer cans all empty and a box which contained a further dozen empty cans.

The day we were to return home we went over once again very early, armed with some black sack and litter picked the whole section and then the car park and as you can see by the pictures attached there was a vast amount off rubbish.

Early on in the season I myself have seen people /fishermen camping in the car park up to 10 people at a time again when they left all the rubbish was left again for someone else to clear up.

One further trend at the moment seems to be to dig out a swim with steps, leaving a very unsightly mess. Then once it rains the swim is unfishable due to the slippery mud making it dangerous.

Our concern here is that the farmer whose land this section is on is not very happy with this situation, so there might be a chance this section could be removed from the BAA book. Once again the mindless morons will spoil it for the greater majority

I would be interested in your thought on these matters and look forward to an early reply

Mike Rivett

Thank you for taking the time and trouble to send in your report of the litter at Eardington. Sadly the same thing is being witnessed along many of our waters and the blame rests squarely on anglers. I say anglers and not members as our evidence shows that it is those unlawful anglers who are in the main responsible for leaving this type of litter. This season particularly we have seen an increase in this type of litter, which we have identified as being left by groups of foreign anglers who light fires and hold drinking sessions as part of their fishing experience and then leave the detritus behind them. These people tend to fish late into the evening and through the night. Whilst we do our best to react to reports of such behaviour, we have to recognise that we are not the police, nor do we have the resources to check all of our venues, every day. Our volunteer bailiffs do their best to deter this practise, but it is a difficult and often unproductive task.

I thank you and your colleagues for clearing away this litter.

John Williams

Secretary, Birmingham Anglers Association

Hi,

I have just returned from a couple of days fishing BAA waters. My first choice was the Teme at Eardiston/Lindridge, but as water levels are so low I decided the Severn may be a better option, with deeper swims.

In 2 days I visited Trimpley, Blackstone & Arley Right Bank. Whilst I enjoyed the change in scenery (especially Arley). I could not believe how much rubbish anglers leave behind.

Fishing was tough and slow (like the river) and my net didn't get wet, for the right reasons, but was instead used for a rubbish scoop. On each swim I needed to spend time cleaning up before I could even start to fish. Leaving some until the end of the session, so I didn't disturb the swim scooping the bottles and cans from the water.

Do you guys not know how lucky you are to have these gorgeous spots on your doorstep! Rivers like the Severn & Teme are nature's gifts and I cannot fathom how anyone would not respect that.

I will return as how can anyone not want to fish in such gorgeous places, but my faith in mankind is at a serious low after witnessing such mess. I thought fishermen were meant to enjoy nature! And part of that must also be to RESPECT it.

Leaving litter behind you in my opinion, should remove your right to ever fish AGAIN.

Best Regards

Mr A Wightman, Rochford, Essex

Ed; although litter has always been a problem, it seems to be particularly bad this year. We have also had an increase in the amount of night fishing on waters where it is not permitted, our bailiffs are currently tackling this issue. These two problems may be linked?

Thanks for clearing up, as you say it should not be necessary but it is a problem which is very difficult to fix.

Dear Sirs,

I took my dog for a walk along the river at Bidford-on-Avon last Saturday evening, 27th September 2014.

When I reached the main car park at Marlcliff, I found two beer-can swilling 'anglers' fishing one of the pegs in front of their car, surrounded by plastic bags on the bank. I carried on to the weir before doing a 'U-turn'. One of the 'anglers' was still there but the other and the car had gone. As I got closer, the other returned in the car, bringing more beer. As I passed, I called out to them asking them not to forget to take their rubbish home with them, only to receive a look as if to suggest that I had come from another planet. Being suspicious, I tapped their registration number into a text on my mobile phone (Metallic Green Ford Focus - X195 CJF).

Suffice to say, when I went back there the next morning (another dog walk) they had gone but the bank around where they had been was strewn with litter (empty plastic bags) and empty beer cans.

Why can't these pigs take their rubbish home with them?

Anyway, I doubt if 'we' (the BAA - I am a member) can track them down from the details of their car but, perhaps, it might be an idea to circulate their details in one of your newsletters either to embarrass them or warn other anglers what to expect if they see the same car at any of 'our' venues.

For the record, I collected all their rubbish and dumped it in a bin at the local supermarket. I'd rather have stuffed it through their letter-boxes.

Incidentally, the top car park near the lock (the one the specimen hunters use when fishing the weir pool) isn't looking too tidy either.

Regards,

Paul Hitchman

Ed; as you can see from the other letters, litter has become a problem this summer, thanks for sharing this with us and clearing up behind them.

Good evening,

I have just returned from an exploratory visit to Bushley, on the Severn below Upton, and I am enquiring what the status of this fishery now is.

I followed the instructions in the map – book and did eventually locate the parking area. I proceeded on foot through the gate on which there is an old BAA sign and a notice saying no cars beyond this point, around 500 m along a footpath which runs along a hedge line to the river. On arriving at the river at the fence end, there were no BAA (or any other) notices on either side of the fence, and importantly no access to the river bank downstream of the fence – it's a complete tree line for at least 200m below the fence and you would need mechanised tools to actually create a fishing space – it would not be a case of bashing a few reeds or nettles or lopping the odd branch. I guess that no-one has fished here for many years. Upstream of the fence is largely open but there was no indication that this is BAA water (difficult to judge from the map-book alone). I was only able to find a place to fish by walking up to the Environment Agency free fishing on the gauging station.

On the basis of today's experience can I ask; where are the upstream and downstream limits of BAA water? Are there any actual fishing pegs, or is it planned to create any? I can see that it would be low priority for work parties because it doesn't get fished much if at all due to the long drive to the parking and long walk afterwards, but there is a danger of a vicious circle, no-one goes so pegs don't get cleared so no-one goes... A shame as this fishery sits on a bend with tributary coming in – has to be a serious bream-holding area.

Regards,

Graeme Peirson

You are right, Bushley is quite a way down the list of priority fisheries when we are planning our fisheries maintenance programme. I have copied this response to the Chairman of our Fisheries team and I am sure he will take your comments on board.

Regarding BAA rights, they extend for one meadow upstream of the fence and two meadows downstream of the fence.

Regards.

John Williams

Ed; As a result of your email you will see from the Fisheries Report that we have already made an initial visit to Bushley. We plan to return in early November with the full team to progress our work there. I will include an update and pictures in the December edition.

Reply to article in the October newsletter ('No obvious fishing pegs below Colliery Bridge at Alveley'.)

I have often fished this area of the Seven and I thought I would put pen to paper in its defence as I've had some outstanding barbel sessions along this stretch. The walk back up to the car park can be a bit of a puff and pant I grant you but if you travel light it's no problem. I travel with a rod made up, landing net, a small rucksack of bits and a unhooking mat to sit on. I think the main advantage for this stretch is the opposite bank, which is generally shoulder to shoulder with anglers all of whom seem to be putting in upwards of half a hundred weight of ground bait. This ensures there is a good head of fish in the area but I believe scares them over onto our side of the river until they think it's safe to come out. I therefore fish with meat or pellet run under overhangs and down the inside of fast water with the least amount of disturbance. Magic fishing.

Pete Roberts.

Ed; as a result of the email in the October issue you will see from the Fisheries Report that we have visited Alveley and cut-out/created a number of pegs from the upstream end of the fishery downstream to the end of the wood. As we could not do anything about the walk from the car park it should not get too busy and upset your magic fishing.

Make time to
go fishing



Help stop invasive species damaging the places you fish



Stop quagga mussels spreading: check, clean, dry

Anglers have already helped to slow the spread of the 'killer shrimp'. Now there's a new alien species threatening the places you love to fish: the quagga mussel.

The mussels from south-east Europe have been found in Wraysbury Reservoir in Surrey. They smother hard surfaces, block water intakes and change the natural balance of rivers and lakes. If we're not careful they could spread to other fisheries.

Please **check, clean and dry your tackle every time you go fishing** to help stop quagga mussels and other invasive species from spreading.

Watch this video to see how to check, clean and dry your kit.

Angling Trust and Environment Agency Launch Review of Multiple Rod Licence



The Angling Trust has begun discussions with the Environment Agency on the controversial issue of the coarse angling licence for the use of multiple rods, which has been a longstanding complaint of many carp and specimen anglers who feel aggrieved at having to buy two separate rod licences.

The strength of feeling on this subject has once again been illustrated in the Angling Trust's current angling survey, which is still open until October 31st, and in regular representations to both the Trust and carp fishing magazines and organisations.

The Trust has been very encouraged by the willingness of Sarah Chare, the new Head of Fisheries at the EA, to consider this and other possible reforms of the rod licence regime. Any changes could not be implemented until April 2016 at the earliest however, because of the constraints of the commercial rod licence contract.

The Angling Trust believes that the current arrangements need to change as they don't seem fair to carp and other specimen anglers using three rods, but being charged for four. On the other hand any changes must not reduce the funds available to the EA for the restocking of waters, tackling fish health issues and delivering fisheries improvement and habitat restoration works, particularly at a time when the government is cutting grant funding to the Agency.

Other issues under discussion will include the possibility of abolishing the junior licence in order to encourage more youngsters to take up fishing and introducing a 365 day rolling licence rather than the current 31st March end date.

Angling Trust Campaigns Chief Martin Salter said:

"Even tench and barbel anglers like myself, who usually fish with either one or two rods at a time, would sometimes like to use a third rod to switch quickly to a new method or to stalk a fish showing in the margins or well away from our baited areas. Whilst many anglers I know won't buy two separate licences at the moment, they would be happy to pay a fair price to occasionally use a third rod. Personally, I wouldn't mind paying a bit more for my own licence if it meant that more juniors under 16 could fish for free, because anything that attracts youngsters into our sport has to be good for the future of angling."

The moves by the Angling Trust and the Environment Agency have been welcomed by leading figures in the carp world.

Simon Crow, editor of Carp-Talk with over twenty years' experience working in the carp fishing trade, added:

"The majority of fisheries up and down the country allow carp anglers to use a maximum of three rods. It therefore seems a waste that we need to buy two two-rod licences to cater for this. It would be so much more user friendly if a single rod licence was introduced to cater for this."

Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive of the Angling Trust & Fish Legal said:

"We welcome the willingness of Sarah Chare to listen to the views of the angling community and to consider carefully taking action to make the licence system fairer for carp and specimen anglers. One of the most important parts of the Angling Trust's job is to represent the views of anglers to the Environment Agency and government. We need to find a workable way forward that is fairer to carp and specimen anglers without impacting significantly on the funds that pay for the vital work of the Agency's fisheries department."

Sarah Chare, Deputy Director of Fisheries, Biodiversity and Geomorphology from the Environment Agency added:

"The Environment Agency is starting a review of rod licence arrangements that will not come into effect until April 2016. This review may also affect the cost of rod licences, which have remained at the same level for the last 5 years. As part of this review we are talking with the Angling Trust and other partners to understand the views of the angling groups they represent. Within government rules we will be seeking the fairest deal for anglers that secures the best future for angling through the services the Environment Agency delivers both directly and through the partners we fund."

Match Reports

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

Cradley Heath Labour Club

Sunday 28th September

Pershore, River Avon

		lbs	ozs	
1 st	John Babbington	17	11	Peg 13, seven chub and a few perch on ledgered worm
2 nd	Gary Mason	6	0	Peg 1, small chub, roach and perch on stick float and maggot
3 rd	John Clarke	4	13	Peg 10, small chub, roach and perch on maggot feeder

A hard match in low and clear conditions.
19 anglers fished.

Cradley Heath Labour Club

Sunday 5th October

Bredon, River Avon

1 st	Stewart Mulheron	7	10	Peg 1 near the slipway. Mainly perch to pole fished worm and caster.
2 nd	Martyn Yarsley	2	4	Peg 3, small roach and perch on pole fished maggot.
3 rd	Steve Robson	1	14	Peg 6, small roach and perch to pole fished maggot.

A very hard match due to the river still being gin clear and low, not one bream was caught. 17 Anglers fished.

Halesowen RBL

Sunday 12th October

Ripple, Lower Severn

1 st	Phil Cooper	19	14	Peg 20, bream to groundbait feeder with worm and maggot
2 nd	Richie Owen	18	5	Peg 9, bream to groundbait feeder with worm and some on pellet
3 rd	Kevin Clarke	13	7	Peg 23, bream to groundbait feeder with worm and caster

Reports from - Lawrie Mulheron

A nice colour to the river after the rain last week and some anglers caught fish. 23 anglers fished.

Companions AC		Sunday 5th October		Ripple, Lower Severn
1 st	D Webb	14	0	
2 nd	S Hanlon	4	9	
3 rd	J Smith	2	10	
4 th	D Mills	1	9	
Report from - Dave Gumbley				

Bailiffing

'Watch out there's a bailiff about'

Association bailiffs have continued to carry out the regular checks on our waters this month and saw the continuing mild weather attracting a number of anglers out onto the banks. We have checked nearly 3,500 anglers so far this year from around 2000 visits to individual stretches of water.

Earlier in the month, a team of bailiffs visited Hampton Loade, Danery, Quatford and Arley one evening following some information received from a member that a large gathering of possibly non-members would be gathering to fish into the night. The event didn't materialise in the end, possibly due to the bad weather that day, but it proved to be a useful exercise involving the local Police and with the Environment Agency keeping an eye on the situation too. A number of other anglers were checked though and advised about the night fishing rules.

Our bailiffs are volunteers and although the Association can't promise a response to every incident, this operation showed that with the good will of our members we are capable of pulling together to combat some of the problems we encounter on our waters.

Kevin Pearson
Superintendent Bailiff
Birmingham Anglers' Association