


B.A.A. NEWS



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March 2015

End of season whoppers!

See page 2-7

New Teme water

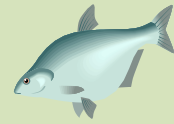
See page 9

Work at Nordley finished

See pages 13-14



Fishing news



PB for Colin



Hi,

Maurice Taylor and I had another piking session today. Fishing the Avon at Charlton parking by the pump house, I float fished a dace dead bait over on the far shelf. As soon as it hit I knew it was not a pike it ran down stream and put up a fair old scrap. When we put her on the scales they went to 13lb which is a personal best for me.



What a cracking week it's been, not a Personal Best (have had one 4lb heaver) but this old girl weighed in at 14½lb. Me and Maurice fished the BAA waters at Fladbury, she was caught on the same rig I used for my PB zander on Tuesday, I think I used the same dace as well!

Colin Townsend

A year at Mythe



Hi

These are just a few picture of fish I caught from Mythe, which I religiously fished in 2014. I hope maybe you could use a picture on the new website or in a newsletter.

The average size of bream was between 4 and 5lb. The picture of the single bream is a lot lighter in colour and was the first fish I caught at Mythe last year and remains the biggest at 6.5lb. My biggest catch was the 14 fish bream catch close to 70lb.

Tench were caught frequently throughout the season from a certain peg biggest being 6.2lb

Many thanks

Steve Dickerson

Valentine's cracker



With a slightly rise in temperature I ventured out to Hampton Loade, river looked in perfect winter condition, off I walked upstream of the blue bridge,

4 Barbel in total 2 at 5lb, 8lb 3oz & 9lb 13oz, chubby weighed in at 3lb 10oz and the chublet finished off a great winter session.

Cheers,

Shaun Barrett

Winter barbel



This was the best of 3 barbel caught at Ladyham on the 15th February, it weighed 11.2lbs caught on an 8mm pellet size 16 hook I had one 7.5lb and one guessed around 5lbs.

Rob Holland

Bright February day at Newhalls



A few quality roach & dace caught from Newhalls Meadow yesterday Sunday 8th February. All caught on caster and stick float in bright conditions.

Best Regards, Craig Cope

A net full!



Pete Jones pictured at Wood End is still smiling from his season's best days fishing at Birds Meadow on the Severn.

On Sunday 15th February he fished ground bait feeder with red maggot caster and worm he caught 96lb of Severn bream. He caught right from the start and fish came to the net all day but after a 5 hours session he had to call it a day. Pete could not pull his net out of the water and had to call for assistants from two other anglers.

He thought he would try the Avon on Tuesday 17th February and decided to take the long walk across the meadow at Wood End and was rewarded with a 26lb net of Avon bream.

Chub a cast on the canal



Hi,

I went fishing Friday with my granddad, Glynn and thought it would make a good report for the newsletter this month.

On Friday we went fishing at Botterham Locks on the Staffs & Worcester Canal. We both had caught healthy bags of gudgeon and roach, when a man called Fred Perry came down for an afternoon session on the peg below us. Altogether he caught 15 chub with an approximate bag of 30lb at the finish. After talking tactics with Fred, a regular at Botterham Locks, both myself and Glynn then hit into 3 chub but only managed to bank 1 out of the 3 we hooked. Overall it fished amazingly, a real session to promote great canal fishing for the BAA, with almost a chub a cast for Fred Perry.

Adam Price-hunt



Executive update



Long Service



It was agreed to bestow Life Membership of the Association on Peter Thomas in recognition of his 20 years' service on the Executive Committee. Peter was presented with an illuminated address and a cheque by Ian Rees the President.

Staffs Worcester Canal dredging

We have been informed by the Canal and River Trust that they intend to carry out dredging on the Staffs & Worcester Canal from Stourport to north of where our fisheries on this canal end. The work is currently planned to start in December 2015 completing in June 2016. We will publish a more detailed itinerary of work closer to the start date when it has been supplied by CRT.

This work is carried out every 25-40 years on a canal and will involve;

- Using a boat to dredge a uniform broad channel along the centre of the canal to a uniform depth of 1.3m.
- The sides of the canal will be profiled.
- All reeds will be removed.
- The spoil (if non-toxic) will be spread on the towpath or adjoining land where available.

This will cause a disruption to angling due to;

- Stirring up mud and discolouring the water.
- Causing the fish to move away from the disturbance.
- It will impact matches on this canal during this period, especially those booked prior to the schedule of work being published.
- Spoil spread on tow path.

Cotheridge car park rubbish

The fridges that had been dumped in the car park have been removed.

Bailiffing

Four new bailiffs have been appointed, bringing the total now to 62.

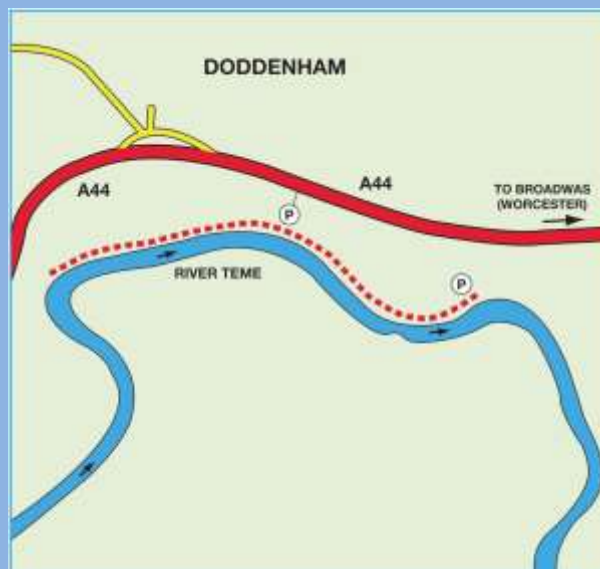
Canal vegetation cut back

Following representation to CRT, vegetation along the Staffs & Worcester Canal at Hinksford has been cut back.

New BAA website

Phase 1 of the new BAA website is now live replacing the old site. Phase 2, a members forum will follow in spring; Phase 3 providing on-line membership application and renewal in late summer.

New BAA water



The purchase of a new water at Doddenham on the River Teme has just been completed.

The water consists of about 600 yards of left banks fishing immediately upstream of our Broadwas fishery.

See the Doddenham Fishery page under Where to Fish on the website, or click on the following link for more information;

<http://www.baa.uk.com/where-fish/teme/doddenham/>



Archive extracts



Below are extracts from the March 1959 edition of the Midland Angler, the forerunner to the BAA News.



Go to a water you know well — a place where you know the likeliest places to catch fish.

I LIKE to save the last week-end of the season for chub fishing, for I believe it's the very best time to catch a specimen chub. I have good reasons for believing it, too, for if I haven't caught one myself, I've at least seen one over 5 lbs. caught on every last week-end for the past five years.

Not only does the back-end of the season offer a better chance of catching a big chub than any other time. The fish are in first-class fighting condition then, and one of four pounds or more in a strong current takes all your skill to land. Some of the trout-fishers who sneer at chub might change their minds if they hooked a genuine 5-pounder in March, instead of accidentally catching, in May, a

chub which they say was a five-pounder before throwing it contemptuously over the hedge. The last "five-pounder" I saw so treated weighed 3 lb. 5 oz. and had just finished spawning.

It is wise, therefore, when seeking that back-end specimen chub, to avoid fishing too fine. Just how fine you dare go depends on the river you choose to fish, but even in open water I shouldn't care to use a line under 4 lbs. b.s. or a hook smaller than a No. 10. I have managed to land big chub on much finer tackle, more by good luck than by good fishing, but I've lost far too many on it. With 4 lbs. stuff the odds are about even between angler and fish if a 5-pounder is hooked in water

Another coarse fishing season is drawing towards its close.

RICHARD WALKER
offers some advice on how to make the most of the last few days that remain.

STICK TO CHUB FOR THAT FINAL FLING

reasonably free from snags. Where there are submerged roots or branches, or beds of dead rushes, it is safer to use six-pound line and a No. 6 hook, and even then you are by no means immune from a smash if you hook a whopper.

If you want to make the best possible use of that last week-end, and you really want a big chub, I would advise you to fish a water you know very well, for you don't want to waste time finding where the fish are. Go to a place where you already know the likeliest spots for big chub to be in, and go first to the one you fancy most.

At this time of year, unless weather conditions are very bad, the chub are sure to be willing to feed, so it doesn't pay to be too patient. Lack of bites generally means that chub aren't occupying the swim you've chosen, for they do tend to travel about more in late February and March. Therefore, don't groundbait heavily at first; flick in a few samples at intervals for five minutes or so before you make your first cast. Then fish for ten or fifteen minutes and, if you

haven't had bite in that time, move to another swim.

I like to spend the first half of the day like this, giving each likely spot a quarter of an hour or so; but after about 2 p.m. I look for the sort of swim in which continuous ground-baiting may get results. Experience of a water is needed to choose such a swim; it should be either a very long one, or the upstream one in a chain of connected swims. Don't choose a pool that is "disconnected" from others by rapids or shallows; pick one which mashed-up soaked bread will go right through and

downstream. In the right kind of water you can bring up chub from as much as 200 yards downstream, provided you keep putting in groundbait a little at a time but very often.

What tackle you use must depend on the water; you can float-fish or ledger and where the swim allows it you can try one if the other fails.

I often start off with ledger, which frequently catches one or two fish after the groundbait has brought them up into my swim, and then no more for a while. I then change to float tackle and let it trot down in the

generally add a bit of fairly stiff paste on the shank of the hook; it doesn't come off so easily on a long trot, and it goes down stream more smoothly and steadily than crust alone.

When ledgering in a swim that is being steadily ground-baited, look out for the slack line bite—one shown by the line suddenly slackening. A fish working up the stream of groundbait may pick up your hookbait and carry right on upstream. This happens very often and when it does you have to spot it at once, because the fish will have felt the lead as the line slackens and

STICK TO CHUB FOR THAT FINAL FLING



Many a 5 lb chub has been caught on the final day of the season.

track the groundbait has been taking. I let it go a long way farther down than I have been ledgering, and this technique may yield another fish or two. As long as it succeeds, I stick to it, but after fifteen minutes of trotting without a bite, I go back to ledgering.

The point is, are the chub intercepting ground bait that is being carried down by the current, or are they picking up groundbait that has lodged on the bottom? If the fish are there, and aren't doing one thing they're very likely doing the other, so you change your method in hope of finding the right way of fishing.

When you can do this, it is not advisable to drag bottom while trying float-fishing. You're going to search the bottom with the ledger, so set the float to keep the hook several inches off. Then, when your float disappears, you won't be left wondering whether it is a bite or the hook catching bottom. When chub are intercepting groundbait coming to them down a current, it is often impossible to tell from the way the float goes under whether the hook has caught, or a fish has taken the bait, unless you know you are running clear.

I like to use a cube of crust for bait on the ledger, but for float-fishing I

you have to strike instantly if you are to hook him.

It's worth remembering that chub are peculiar in that after eating quite a lot of one thing, they'll often go right off it; and in the process of attracting them up into your swim by means of bread groundbait, they may have eaten all they want of bread. For that reason, I like to have with me a bit of cheese-paste and some lobworms to use as change baits. If in spite of all my ground-baiting, ledgering and long-trotting I haven't had a bite in a couple of hours, then I try a worm or a bit of cheese, and it often gets me a fish first swim down.

When fishing for chub in this way, there is always the problem of small ones which you can hardly avoid catching. If you are determined to have that big one, don't put small ones back where you're fishing. A small one returned will bolt off down your swim and scare all the fish coming up. So put the babies in a keepnet, or else take them well downstream—keeping well back from the water—before releasing them. And if you hit a big one and lose it, don't be surprised if you have to wait a long time before getting another bite!

Your Waterside Companions . . .

by 'TAG' BARNES

THE SHREW

— A Concentrated Bundle of Fury with Red Tipped Teeth



THE smallest concentrated bundle of living fury—that must surely be the shrew. Weighing but half-an-ounce, this tiny animal will attack and kill with great voracity a young bird, a mouse, and often its own relations.

There are three varieties of shrews

in this country, but it is the water shrew I want to talk about now. In appearance the water shrew is like a small black mouse, except that it has an unusually sharp-pointed nose. If you examined one closely you would also find it had nearly twice as many teeth as a mouse and that they were all coloured red at the ends. Why this is so I couldn't say—unless they chew Betal nut!

Like the water voles they live in burrows in the bank and are excellent little swimmers. They can stay submerged for half-a-minute and find a lot of their food by turning over stones on the bottom. In the water they hunt out nymphs, caddis, beetles etc., and when they get the chance they will eat fish spawn and small fry. On land their varied diet includes worms, slugs and insects.

More shrews are seen dead than alive, especially in early spring when terrific fights to death take place.

You would have great difficulty in keeping alive a shrew if you caught one. They require feeding every few hours and can eat four times their own weight in 36 hours.

Shrews are killed and eaten by herons, stoats, weasels, rats, hawks and kingfishers. Dogs and cats will kill them but will not eat them.

Trout anglers are liable to come across dead shrews in April when their breeding season starts. The

young are born in May in a ball-shaped nest of grass, moss and leaves well below ground level.

I remember when I was a boy catching a water shrew in the River Derwent late one afternoon. Thinking it would be interesting to keep I placed it in a tin mug and tied a handkerchief over the top.

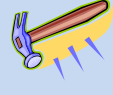
My route back to the railway station and home lay across several miles of wild moorland. I started over the moors as it began to get dark, not in the least worried, having crossed in the dark many times before. However, after walking about a mile the stars were suddenly obliterated by a thick swirling fog and in next to no time I was completely lost.

For almost two hours I stumbled along, not knowing in which direction I was travelling, until quite suddenly the fog lifted and I could once more see the stars. Better still, I found I was on a hillside, and in the valley far below me twinkled the lights of a village. I reached the road leading through the main street by the side of which ran a small stream.

Before going a step further I removed the tin mug from my pack and released the shrew into the stream. If he had been half as scared in his prison as I had been on the moors then I wasn't keeping him a second longer!



Fisheries report



The Fisheries Work party has carried out work at the following fisheries since the last edition;

Nordley Pool 6



Getting JCB onto bank to fix leak



Leak dug out and ready to be filled.



Increasing size of Pool 6 car park



Scraping mud off Pool 4 car park

The work at Nordley Pool 6 which started in December has now completed at the end of February. This involved hiring a man plus JCB for the day on Saturday 21st February.

The work that has been done is;

- Remove all trees on the bank between Pool 6 and the stream. This was done to allow more sunlight to get onto the water and to reduce the amount of leaf litter falling into the pool to try and improve the quality of the water and the fishing, and to remove the risk of falling trees tearing a hole in the bank resulting in major water loss.
- Repair the leak found in the bank putting the pool at risk of emptying into the stream alongside as the leak increased.
- Repair the leak found around the overflow pipes which control the level of the pool by draining excess water into the stream.

- Increase the size of the car park at the bottom end of Pool 6 alongside the lane.
- Dig out the muddy hole in Pool 6 car park, fill it with rubble and put a drain from it into the stream to clear the rain water that runs down the lane.
- Remove a number of the trees on the side of pool 6 with the fishing platforms. This was done to reduce leaf litter falling into the pool, make fishing from the platforms less restricted by the trees and allow more sunlight onto the pool.
- Cut back the trees on the dam between Pools 5 & 6.
- Scrap the mud off the surface of the car park alongside pool 4, increasing its size.
- Level the surface of the lane down to Pool 6 on the untarmaced stretch by the houses, which due to vehicle erosion, cars had been 'bottoming' on the centre ridge.

The only outstanding task on Pool 6 that we are currently aware of is the repair of the overflow from Pool 5 as this has become eroded. This will need to be carried out during a dry period when no water is coming over.

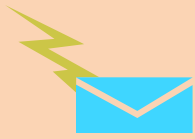
Fladbury

Due to an ongoing problem with fly tipping in the lane that leads to the downstream meadow at Fladbury. The gate at the top of the lane will be padlocked for the duration of the close season (15th March to 15th June 2015). A note to this effect has also been added to the 'Where to Fish' page for Fladbury on the BAA website.

Charlton



Last year we did some work on the willows upstream of the pump house in meadow 4 and we were planning to go back this year to do more. Well it's now been well and truly sorted, by who we don't know, possibly the EA or Avon Navigation Trust.



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.

Just to let you know. I`m afraid to say that fly-tipping has occurred at your Chadbury Meadows car park area in the woods.

Linden Gregory

Ed: Thanks for letting us know. Fly-tipping is an increasing problem for us especially on the Avon, the information has been passed onto our Fisheries Team who will be commencing burn-ups after 15th March.

Went to recce the Leigh and Oxbow stretch of the Teme on Friday, only to find very unwelcoming signage, stating no access to walkers or fishermen on the lane access. Have I misunderstood the means of access? Checked on Google maps etc, but cannot see any way of getting anywhere near the site. Any advice?

Thanks Rich

Ed; Thanks' for the information. We will get our Fisheries Team to check out what is going on down there.

Really like the new web site a vast improvement!!

I attach some positive notes about the river Teme at Bransford. Sadly over the winter several dead trees on the BAA side have fallen in spoiling swims.

Attached notes;

River Teme at Bransford

Now retired (early) and living on the Malvern Hills I have restarted fishing after a 30 year hiatus. Being Birmingham born and bred I was of course, a member of the BAA, when I fished the Severn and Avon a lot. So, I naturally re-joined the BAA in 2012 and whilst my fishing is still infrequent I have started to fish the lower Severn and River Teme at Bransford.

When I last regularly fished the Severn in the mid-1970s to early 1980s barbel were still a new and exciting addition to the river. But, how things have changed! In those long-off days, I often (like most leisure anglers) trotted a float and only occasionally ledgered with a new-fangled swimfeeder.

However, since 2012 when I recently restarted, I only seemed to come across fishermen ledgering in the hope of a large chub or preferably a barbel being caught. So, I followed their lead for a while but soon wanted to trot rather than wait for what seemed to be a few widely scattered large fish. Bransford on the Teme has become my best known venue as it is local and ideal for a few snatched hours when I can grab them. This year I treated myself to a newly made split cane rod for trotting and started to fish this stretch of River Teme with centrepin trotted maggots and bread. I immediately found that the river at Bransford was totally different to the impressions gained from ledgering worms, meat and bread in previous years. I feel I must tell you about my discoveries.

There seems to be much gloom and doom about state of rivers and the reducing numbers of large chub and barbel, and fears that new generations of fish, especially barbel, roach and salmon are not been recruited to the population.

My findings from trotting on the River Teme would appear to indicate that the future is not so bad. What follows relates to about 5 to 7 visits made during the summer 2014 and early autumn. Trotting and loose feeding with maggots produced many fish under a pound but most significantly many fish of 4 to 8 inches in length, which I take to be of 1 or 2 years of age. They included dace, chub, roach, bream or bream hybrids, barbel (at least 4 of this size), quite a few trout, but interestingly also a few salmon parr with their distinctive vertical bands, and a couple of grayling. I thought the small roach, barbel, and salmon were of particular interest and thought you might be pleased to know.

Regards Dave Taft

Ed; Dave, thanks for your very comprehensive and interesting report. The Fisheries Team will be visiting Bransford along with the majority of our other river fisheries during spring or early summer to cut back the vegetation. If we can get at the fallen trees we will do what is possible to reduce their impact on the swims. Trees in the river is a common problem on the Teme due to steep banks and high floods.

As you are now retired, you could join our group of volunteers in the Fisheries Team who spend 1-2 days a week maintaining the BAA fisheries. If you are interested drop us a message via 'Contact Us' on the website.