Est. 1883

B.A.A.NEWS

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May 2013

Coppice back on form

See pages 2 and 3

New River Severn fishery ready for the 16th June

See page 6

Educated Severn chub

See page 9

Fishing news

Coppice back on form

Hi All

Just thought I'd share a few catches I've had from Coppice recently.

The first session was on Tuesday 2nd of April, I caught two low common doubles in the first hour between 8 and 9am with no bites for the rest of the day.

The second was Monday 22nd of April and was a totally opposite end to the day. I started fishing at 6:30 and spoke to a fellow angler who had been on the bank since 5:15 and had already landed two fish. So in a positive frame of mind I set off and got settled. My first bite came at 17:20 and woke me from a deep sleep; I managed to land another low double common. The rod went again and at about 18:15 I landed a cracking 17.8lb Mirror. All four fish fell to a single dumbbell with no free offerings, I hope this is the start of things to come and the pool produces like it did early last year

Regards

Andy Lea

New fishing year starts

Hello it's Kev of Birmingham back for a fun filled, packed year of fishing on the BAA. I've been out 5 times this year so far, Coppice 4 and Nordley 1 but BLANKED.

But on my 5th fishing trip to Coppice for 36 hours it got a little better. Got there 1 hour before sun rise on Saturday 27th April and got set up. On the Saturday 4 carp come out the lake in 24 hours 2 of which I had.

A 7lb 8oz common and a 13lb mirror.

I had no takes in the night or into Sunday morning.

It's about 2pm now and no one had a fish all morning. Its about 2.45 pm and I'm sitting having a cup of tea when my bite alarm calls out to me "I'm up like a flash" YES I'm in and 10 minutes later its in the landing net and it's a lovely looking mirror at 15lb 13oz.

And last but not least a 3lb 13oz bream.

Thanks,

Kev of Birmingham

Fishing news record

for last 12 months

fish/catcher	lb	oz	location	method	date caught	BAA News edition
Barbel						
			River Severn			
Malcolm Ford	12	3		Luncheon meat	28/07/2012	Aug 2012
Brian Rossiter	11	12	Severn Stoke	Cage feeder & banded pellet	19/10/2012	Nov 2012
? Nichols	10	8	Severn Stoke		21/08/2012	Oct 2012
Brian Rossiter	10		Severn Stoke	Cage feeder & banded pellet	19/10/2012	Nov 2012
Karen Summerfield	9	2	Ribbesford		?	Oct 2012
Roy Price	9	1	Arley	2 x 8mm halibut pellets over bed of 3mm pellets	13/07/2012	Aug 2012
Bob Bennett	9	1	Erdington	2 x 12mm halibut pellets	13/07/2012	Aug 2012
Andy Lea	8	9	Danery	3 x 8mm halibut pellets over pellet and hemp mix	28/06/2012	July 2012
Chris Manns	6	12	Underdale	Water at 5°C	03/03/2013	April 2013
			River Avon			
David Holland	10	12	Wasperton		14/07/2012	Aug 2012
Rob Holland	10	8	Wasperton		14/07/2012	Aug 2012
Mike Bothwell	10	2	Wasperton	1 inch cube of meat	03/01/2013	Feb 2013
Brian Rossiter	10		Fladbury	Banded pellet & feeder	07/01/2013	Feb 2013
Brian Rossiter	7		Fladbury	Banded pellet & feeder	07/01/2013	Feb 2013
			River Teme			
Steve Welland	10		Stanford Bridge		July 2012	Aug 2012
Bream						
			River Severn			
Ben Keen	6		Ladyham	Maggot/groundbait feeder	16/06/2012	July 2012
			River Avon			
Graham Beck	6		Marlcliff	Maggots/maggot feeder	Aug 2012	Sep 2012
			Pools			
Darren Davies	6		Mythe Pool	Double sweetcorn with open end feeder	May 2012	June 2012
Colin Weed	4		Coppice		14/08/2012	Sep 2012
Kevin Smith	3	13	Coppice		28/04/2013	May 2013

Common Carp

River Severn

Andy Keen	9		Ladyham	Stick float fished tight to bank, single white maggot, 18 hook, 1.7lb hook length, 3lb mainline	17/09/2012	Oct 2012

River Salwarpe

Martin Dugmore	6	2	Claines	Ground bait feeder with maggots on 16 hook & 3lb hook length	08/03/2013	April 2013

Pools

John Morgan	22	5	Coppice	Bottom fished boilie	09/05/2012	June 2012
Graham Sheldon	22	1	Coppice		Oct 2012	Dec 2012
Graham Sheldon	20	8	Coppice		Oct 2012	Dec 2012
Sam Chapman	19	6	Mythe		26/07/2012	Aug 2012
Kevin Smith	17		Uckinghall		03/06/2012	June 2012
Kevin Smith	17		Coppice		14/08/2012	Sep 2012
Kev Abel	15		Coppice		18/08/2012	Sep 2012
Kevin Smith	14	10	Coppice		02/11/2012	Dec 2012
Kevin Smith	14	4	Coppice		02/11/2012	Dec 2012
Kevin Smith	14	1	Coppice		Oct 2012	Nov 2012
Kevin Smith	13	9	Coppice		Oct 2012	Nov 2012
Kevin Smith	12	13	Coppice		Oct 2012	Nov 2012
Colin Weed	9	12	Coppice		Oct 2012	Nov 2012

Ghost Carp

Canals

John Morgan	24	8	Staffs & Worcs	Bottom fished boilie	2010	June 2012

Leather Carp

Canals

Jonathan Albutt	19		Birmingham Worcester	Stalking tactics in the margins	?	Oct 2012

Mirror Carp

Pools

John Morgan	29	11	Coppice	Zig rigged pop-up	09/05/2012	June 2012
Scott Lote	20		Coppice		?	Oct 2012
Andy Lea	17	13	Coppice	Single dumbbell with no free offerings	22/04/2013	May 2013
Kevin Smith	15	13	Coppice		28/04/2013	May 2013
Kevin Smith	15	7	Coppice		Oct 2012	Nov 2012
Kevin Smith	13		Coppice		27/04/2013	May 2013
Colin Weed	11		Coppice		14/08/2012	Sep 2012

Chub

			River Avon			
David Wood	6	7	Marlcliff		?	Sep 2012
Paul Wood	6	5	Marlcliff		?	Sep 2012
Matthew Smith	6	0	Pershore	2 x 12mm halibut pellet	04/07/2012	Aug 2012
			River Severn			
Chris Manns	4	0	Underdale	Water at 5°C	03/03/2013	April 2013
			River Teme			
Cameron Preece	4	4	Broadwas		Aug 2012	Sep 2012

Perch

			River Severn			
Joe Boles	2	8	Arley RB Harbour		15/09/2012	Oct 2012
			Pools			
Mark Latham	3	8	Coppice	Float fished double maggot	06/11/2012	Dec 2012
Dave Beasley	3	0	Coppice		03/02/2013	Mar 2013

Roach

			River Severn			
Andy Lea	2	4	Danery	3 x 8mm halibut pellets over pellet and hemp mix	28/06/2012	July 2012

Tench

			River Avon			
Derek Gabb	3	14	Pershore LB	Hair rigged cut down boillie and swim feeder full of pellets	Aug 2012	Oct 2012
			Pools			
Tony Barnett	5	4	Uckinghall	Float fished single red maggot	06/10/2012	Nov 2012

Executive update

New Severn fishery

Northwood Fishery comprises of two meadows, one immediately upstream and the other immediately downstream of Dowles Bridge, on the left bank of the Severn, the opposite side to Bewdley about 1 mile upstream of Bewdley Bridge.

The upstream boundary is clearly signed at the end of the meadow; the downstream boundary is the gate by the Environment Agency River Measuring Station.

Access is via Northwood Lane. Turn into Northwood Lane off the road into Bewdley and travel along it for about 1 mile. Immediately after going through the bridge under the disused railway embankment turn left into the fishery car park. For those with a SatNav the Latitude/Longitude reference for the car park is;

North Latitude 52Degrees 23Minutes 9.48Seconds
West Longitude 2Degrees 19Minutes 19.07Seconds

Vehicles must be left in the car park and not driven across the meadow to the bank. Vehicles should be parked leaving sufficient space to allow farm vehicles to cross the car park from the road into the meadow.

Bridge before car park entrance

Car park entrance from road

Dowles bridge

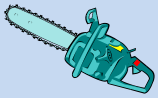
Downstream end of Fishery at EA station

Upstream

Downstream

The river alongside the upstream meadow looks deep with good access from the bank. The downstream water includes a shallow stretch and bank access is more restricted due to the trees. The Fisheries Team plans to visit again to cut out more downstream pegs.

When the season starts send us you pictures and let us know how what you catch from this new fishery.



Fisheries report

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

River Severn

Ribbesford – platform repairs and rebuilds.

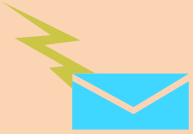
Ladyham – platform repairs and rebuilds.

New Northwood Fishery – putting up signs, peg dig outs and tree trimming.

Hallow – platform repairs and rebuilds.

Pools

Uckinghall – completion of platform rebuilds and removal of fallen trees.



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?

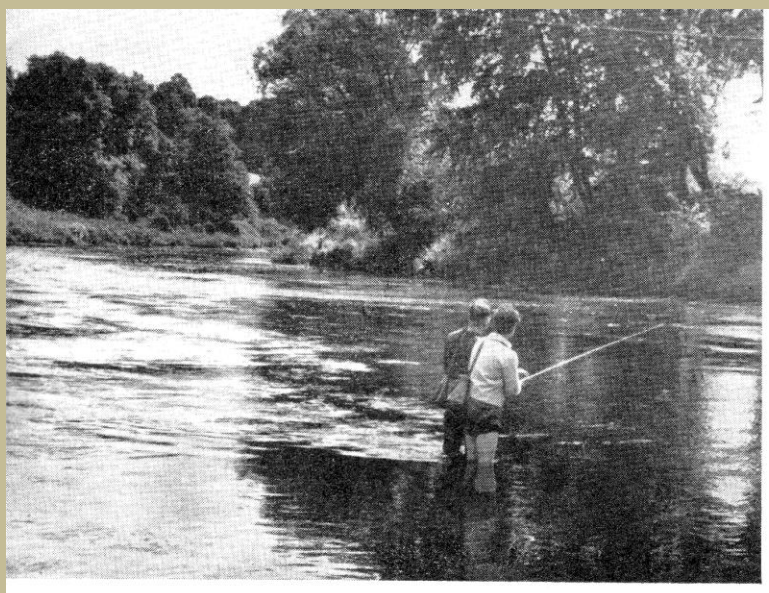
The Editor will act as moderator for items to be included.

No letters this month! Please get writing.

Archive extracts

Midland Angler

Below is an extract from the May 1963 edition, the forerunner to the BAA News.



Hampton Loade, in the heart of the 'chub country', holds some fine perch that 99% of visitors ignore

This excited me more than a little. I had sat so far for two days and nothing comparable had yet happened. I struck immediately and suffered a shock. There was no weight on the line.

It was exactly the feeling you get when you step on to a stair that isn't there or when you pull hard on a jammed cupboard drawer that has loosened itself. I looked at the end of the line and saw that instead of a hook there was just a curly piece of nylon. I looked back at the fish.

When I said that the fish "picked" up the cheese, I could have used a more descriptive phrase. He "pouched" it. His mouth was like a gladstone bag. He was, when I looked, now unpouching the bait. He did this deliberately. He also opened his mouth again and made a movement which looked like "mnere", the noise that children make when taking medicine, and I swear he spat. All the time he looked at me and I knew what he was thinking.

The water was crystal clear with

FORGET THE SEVERN'S 'E

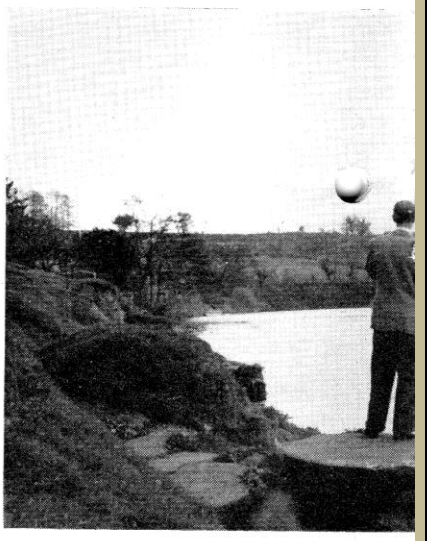
'Fished Out' is the usual verdict of middle Severn anglers when they find chub off the feed. Yet at different tactics, there is grand sport to be had with big roach, perch, pike—and now, barbel

A FRIEND of mine who has a fishery noted for its chub wrote to me the other day to tell me that next season his water would 'lie fallow'. His view was that the water had taken such a hammering last season that it needed twelve months rest to recover. I appreciated his feelings, for I had once spent a whole week on his water trying to catch chub and had failed miserably. I set out full of confidence, knowing the fish to be there. In fact I saw them—regularly every day. Of course they were not all large but there were enough over the 3-lb mark to make the experience memorable. But I only enticed one. It happened like this:

I had, for the day, a companion, not previously known to me, but a sociable type. We talked about fish and about tackle. We got round to tying knots in nylon and I tried to convince him that the half blood knot was foolproof for securing an eyed hook to the line. I demonstrated this with an expert twirl and cut the running end very close to the knot. The finished job looked very neat. I said something silly, like "It would tow an elephant," and went off to find a fish.

I used a large cube of cheese for bait, crawled along the bank of the favourite swim, parted the grass gently and lowered the tackle into the water by winding the reel handle in reverse. I doubt if a mouse would have made more noise.

Sundry fish went through the swim, none big enough to tackle the piece of cheese, or perhaps the big ones were near enough all the time to keep the small stuff at a distance. Anyway after half an hour or less, a large chub came sculling downstream and with a pretty circling movement closed on to my bait. He watched it for a second or two and then very carefully picked it up in his mouth.



At Arley too, despite restocking with nume concentrate solely

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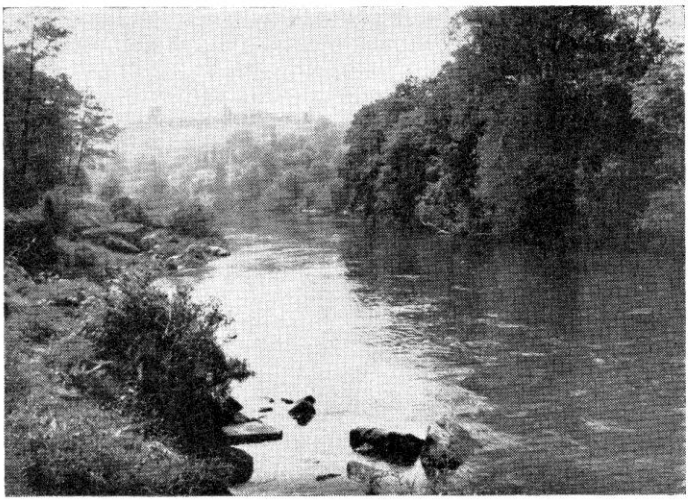
very little flow. For the rest of that day, whenever I passed the swim, the yellow piece of cheese mocked me. It was gone the next day, but I could clearly see the ledger weight for the rest of the week because the stop shot had stripped off the line on the strike.

I never did persuade any sizeable chub to take cheese, or bread, or worm or even minnow on that water. But I did catch other fish. I found them rather easy. For one thing, no one bothered with them on this water at all. This was a chub fishery, occupied by expert and knowledgeable fishermen. They taught the chub all that they knew and the other occupants of the stream learned nothing.

These other fish, roach, perch, minnows and pike were most anxious to provide me with the sport I was not getting. I ledgered for chub—and I caught a fair sized pike as I retrieved my tackle. I don't know whether it was the bright glint of a new weight that attracted him, or the bundle of streamer weed that I was dragging to the bank. I don't think it was the crust of bread I was using for bait.



The Severn at Highley is unquestionably one of the best 'mixed' fisheries in the country. Do B.A.A. members make the most of it?

I ledgered with smaller things like worms, maggots and tiny bits of bread—and caught minnows. The minnows became such a nuisance that I decided to spin. This way I should catch either chub, perch or pike.

Again I caught minnows. I caught these fish, sometimes lip hooked, sometimes speared right down their bodies and sometimes, rather more delicately, by their tails or fins. I gave them to my sociable friend who tethered them to a large float and dropped them in the weeds. During that afternoon he caught a wonderful bag of perch.

On any other water I would have been content to do likewise but I persisted with the chub. And raised another pike. He came the length of the pool I was in to inspect the bright ledger weight. He was big enough to frighten anyone brought up on canals. I jumped a little with surprise when I saw him and I think he saw me for he immediately turned and disappeared again.

I picked out the chub spots, watched them until I knew them well and could creep up on them, hidden in the grasses, without showing myself and dangled a variety of tempting baits before them. I tried all the cheeses, sausages, bread with honey, worms, minnows. I ledgered, float fished, spun. I tried all the things that will catch chub on the Severn, the Teme, the Blythe, Lugg, Mease and Wye. The fish refused the lot, even crayfish.

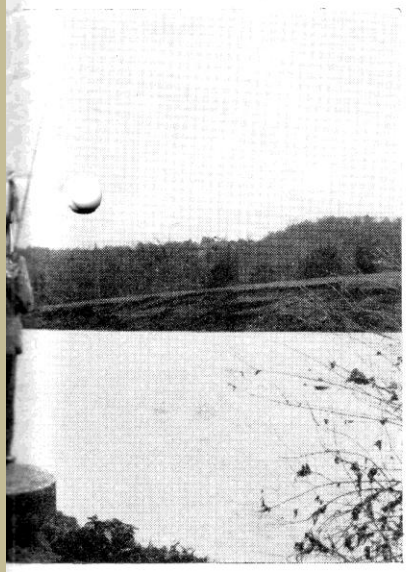
There are times when I hear people grumbling on other waters. They say that they are fished out. Knowing B.A.A. waters as I do I can say that there are no fished out fisheries. At any rate, none of them are fished out in the way that my friend's fishery was "hammered".

Sometimes waters give that impression. Often it is no more than an off day for the fish. They just are not feeding. More often it is the anglers' own fault. Some just do not bother how they behave on the bank. Many clubs ban the movement of anglers between pegs during a contest, in my view a very good rule. I watched a club with such a rule the other week. Those who had got a bad peg just sat and waited patiently for the match

(*continued on page 20*)

DUCATED' CHUB — says JIM WHEAT

such times, and using



erous roach up to 2-lb plus, most anglers
y upon the chub

FORGET THOSE CHUB (cont.)

to end. Everything would have been fine but for the actions of the Secretary who never stopped walking the whole length of the fishery to enquire "Anything?" This water, by the standards of my friend's water, was in no way fished out. On another occasion it will fish well.

Apart, perhaps, from maggots, there is no bait that is too well known to the fish in any B.A.A. fishery. They will tend, instead, to ignore an unusual bait until they have grown used to taking a few free samples. They are not too familiar with the fisherman's staple diet, bread and cheese, to refuse it. They are not too familiar with ledgered baits to refuse them, either.

Most waters are fished on Sundays. On the other six days they are little disturbed. As on my friend's water, some fish are persecuted. I don't think that the chub are pursued half as hard as they could be on the Severn or on all the chub waters that the B.A.A. holds.

Angling Trust Info'

Angling Trust
Member News

ANGLING TRUST
THE VOICE OF ANGLING

Midlands Forum Back at Ombersley !

Tuesday 4th June

Ombersley Memorial Hall

Sandy's Road, Ombersley

WR9 0DY

After heading up to the Trent catchment for our last forum, the next Midlands Freshwater Forum will be Severn based again and will be held at Ombersley Memorial Hall near Worcester.

We had a terrific turn out of anglers last time and we are very keen to see just as many of you this time around.

So please put the date in your diary and make the effort to come along and join in the debate.

We will be providing a small buffet and tea & coffee from 6.30pm the meeting will then commence at 7.00pm

On the Agenda this time:

- **Severn Fish Stocks - Are things moving forward?**
- **The Proposed Severn Barrage - Implications for Anglers**
- **New River Championships - Match Fishing Update**
- **Angling Trust Campaigns Update**
- **Environment Agency Update**

If you would like to attend this forum please register by emailing our Regions Co-ordinator on john.cheyne@anglingtrust.net

PICTURE: The picture above shows Severn Rivers Trust roach spawning boards in place on a Severn Tributary.

Young Anglers Invited to Sensas England Under 18 Trials

13 young anglers participating in the Angling Trust Talent Pathway programme have been invited to the Sensas Team England under 18 trials to be held on the Gloucester canal on Sunday 28th April 2013.

26 anglers from all over the country met at Packington Somers on 6th April to compete on Molands Mere in a match fished to FIPSed International rules. The event was the final stage of the 2012/13 Talent Pathway programme that has seen anglers undertake a training programme designed to teach young anglers with aspirations of fishing for England, the skills and techniques required for international angling. 2012 FIPSed Veterans World Champion, and Sensas U18's and Ladies' Team England coach, Joe Roberts attended the match to cast his eye over the talent on show and invited anglers to attend the trial at the end of April. Despite the pleasant weather on the day, the overnight temperature of -4c meant that fishing was difficult to say the least, but all anglers from the Northern, Midlands and Southern squads gave it their all, and the Midlands squad prevailed as the winning team with top individual place going to Midlands angler James Lomas with a weight of 4lb 12oz.

Joe Roberts said "the fishing was very difficult on the day, but all the anglers displayed their qualities and gave it their all. It was very encouraging seeing some of the anglers from the previous year's programme again and it was evident how much they have developed. It's fantastic that there are so many anglers from all over the country with the desire to fish at the highest level, and this programme gives those anglers the opportunity to learn the skills required to compete at International level. I would encourage all young anglers who want to fish for their country to get involved."

The 2013/14 programme promises to be very exciting with some of the top international anglers involved in the delivery of the coaching programme. Details of the 2013/14 Talent Pathway programme will soon be available via the Angling Trust website, and those interested in getting involved will be able to find details of events in their region by visiting www.anglingtrust.net

Fish Legal Info'

Canoe Campaigner's Access Case Sinks

A campaigner for universal canoe access, Mr. Andrew Biddulph, who tried to claim £4,000 from an angling club for restricting access to the River Dove, has been ordered by the Court to rewrite his claim or withdraw it and pay Fish Legal's costs. This case is a further blow to the incorrect claims of Mr. Biddulph and other campaigners – supported by Canoe England and the British Canoe Union – that there 'might' be a general right of navigation on all rivers.

The Burton-on-Trent Mutual Angling Association allows canoeists to use their part of the River Dove under an agreement with the local canoeing club for set times in the season. But Mr Biddulph demanded that the club recognise 'an ancient right' to canoe whenever and wherever he wished, or be taken to court.

Local anglers were shocked by the ultimatum but (as it was such an unusual case) Fish Legal agreed to help its member club defend its legal right to fish without the threat of constant disturbance from canoeing.

The canoeist's arguments came from a University thesis which says that canoeists are entitled to paddle on all rivers in England. The case was an attempt to put this theory into effect by challenging the current law, but also to extract money from the angling club.

Fish Legal made a court application to strike out his claim as an abuse of process and because it provided no reasonable (or legally recognisable) grounds for bringing the claim. After the application hearing Mr Biddulph chose to withdraw his claim, apparently accepting his case was without any merit.

It is the long accepted position of the Courts, and all respected legal books, that there is no general public right of navigation on non-tidal rivers. Unfortunately, Canoe England and the British Canoe Union create confusion amongst its members by suggesting that there is such a right.

Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive of the Angling Trust and Fish Legal said: "T*he law about navigation is absolutely clear: apart from on a few identified navigable rivers, there is no right of navigation without permission. The failure of this claim goes to show that such challenges to the law are bound to fail."*

"The BCU and Canoe England should wake up to this fact and work with us to promote sensible voluntary access agreements. Many of our members have attempted to draw up agreements with local canoe clubs, only to find that the national canoeing bodies have ordered them not to sign agreements because they do not allow access at all times, or because they would have to accept that they need permission. We call on them to accept the law of the land, respect other people's property rights and to work with the Angling Trust and its members to increase access for canoes in a sustainable way to avoid further conflicts of this type."