


B.A.A. NEWS



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September 2013

Monster Avon chub

See page 2

Reeds to be planted in Coppice Lake

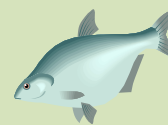
See Reader Letters page 21

Cotheridge footbridge closed for replacement

See Fisheries Diary page 18 and Readers Letters page 24



Fishing news



Monster chub, fish of the month



I caught this chub on the 20th of June on the River Avon at Pershore. There were 5 of us fishing that day with over 160 years fishing experience between us. Weighing in at 6lb 10oz it's the first chub we have seen over 5lb, and was weighed on accurate Salter dial scales. It was taken on double castor as part of an overall catch of 12lb 11oz.

Many thanks, Adam King

Hi All.

Just thought I would share with you a recent capture on association water from below Evesham.

This huge chub hit the scales at 6lb 10oz. My friend Adam King feeder fished double castor on a size 16 hook to take this creature. The fish was as long as he is wide; three of us witnessed the weigh in. As you can see it has a damaged upper tail fin.

Best regards, Keith Jones.

Middle Severn silvers



With the river low and clear I decided to fish the stickfloat at Quatford, had about 40 dace in 4 hrs of fishing with just 1 pint of maggots.

Still silver fish in the Middle Severn just have to commit to fishing for them.

Hope photo encourages other to try for a few silver fish.



Just had another morning's stickfloat fishing at Quatford with maggots, caught approx 30 fish in 4 hrs mixed bag of Dace, Bleak, Roach and Perch.

Great fun on light tackle when the sun's out, the river is low and the Barbel are waiting for more water.



Nice net of fish from Knowle Sands, taken on stickfloat with hemp and maggot.

A great way to spend 5hrs on a sunny day with a low clear river.

Craig Cope

17th annual visit



The party of 4 this year were Richard Rowell, Kim Barnett, Martin Stephenson and Jason Brewster, all keen match/pleasure anglers from the Norwich area. This was the 17th year of our annual trip to the River Severn and as usual we were looking forward to catching a few barbel and quality chub in lovely surroundings. For a bit of fun we were also fishing for the 'Biggest Barbel 2013' trophy.

Richard wanted to try the River Teme for the first time and Kim suggested the stretch at Eardiston Mill where he had suffered a frightening encounter with a swarm of wasps a couple of years prior. He received over a dozen stings and had to immerse himself in the river. On looking back at his tackle it was covered in the swarm and he had to lie low for some time then faced an agonising drive back to his digs in Worcester!

Luckily this time the wasps were absent but unfortunately so were the barbel! We each had a nice 4lb chub on the feeder but the river looked very low and lifeless on a very hot day.

On to the River Severn the next day at Eardington Brook, overcast warm conditions on a very low clear river, where Richard had 6 barbel averaging 5lb from the cattle drink and Kim had 6 barbel up to 7lb from the beach area, all to feeder fished pellets. The most reliable tactic was to mix 3 and 4mm halibut pellets in the feeder with an 8 or 10mm drilled and elasticated pellet on the hook, fishing longish tails of 3 feet plus with regular casting.

Jason and Martin then joined us for the next 5 days and after discussions in the Bridgnorth tackle shops we were told that the town stretches were fishing as well if not better than the BAA stretches, so we decided to mix our venues fishing early and late sessions.

Early in the week we had the mother of all thunderstorms and this put a nice tinge of colour back in the river and upped the level by a few inches which we felt improved our catch rate.

There was not much to choose between the early and late sessions and overall we had consistent catches with most barbel showing in the 5-6lb category, nearly all in perfect condition with the barbel fighting well, often going on arm-aching long runs in the shallower swims.

Kim was the lucky winner of the big fish trophy with a lovely deep bellied barbel of 8lb 12oz from the Bridgnorth town water.

The week was rounded off with our usual last-night Indian meal and we can thoroughly recommend the Blue Ginger in Bridgnorth!

Regards,

Richard, Kim, Jason and Martin

Ruff



Hello Ed,

I last caught this fish 25 years ago.

Thanks BAA for your new Northwood Lane fishery.

Dave Thomas

Coppice reopens



Kev reporting on how Coppice's performed for me when it was reopened on the 1st August. I arrived about 1pm to a full car park but lucky for me someone was leaving what a great start to my day. It was very hot and there were lots of carp on the top. I'm in with only 40mins got of my 8 hours "get-in", finished with 7 common carp (13lb 15oz – 6lb 5oz) and a mirror of 14lb 4oz.

What a great day, made a new friend a guy called Jake who landed one of my carp for me as it liked his swim over mine.

One last thing good on you BAA for closing Coppice when you did.



Hi all popped back over to Coppice for 15 hours and had carp off the bottom and top had a great day and also a chat with Dave Jones from the BAA who was doing his rounds. Finished with 7 common carp (16lb 7oz – 5lb 8oz) and a bream of 3lb 3oz.



Hi, back with another up date on how Coppice Lake is fishing. Well me and my son (Liam) got there at 2pm on the 15th August the sun was out the sky was blue and the conditions looked great. Right here we go we had 26 fish in 26 hours with 3 mirrors, 21 commons (13lb 15oz - 6lb 15oz) and 2 bream (3lb 5oz and 3lb 3oz) and Liam had a new PB of 13lb 14oz common get in son.

In total we had 270lb+ what a great 26 hours thanks,

Kev and Son of Birmingham

Perfect pike



Hi BAA

I am a new BAA member - Decided to go and try my luck on the beautiful stretch of the River Avon as many of the pools look low. I'd heard that there were pike in the area so gave it a go on a spinner - After about 30 min's I'd had a few chases. I left the spinner in a while longer and BANG! caught this pike. As you can see it's in great condition, 3.2 pounds.

All the best

Jamie Power

Pensham tench



Hi,

On a recent visit to Pensham meadow number 2, I had the pleasant surprise of catching two good tench.

Starting off by stick-float fishing I steadily caught small fish, mainly dace and perch. After a while this line died so I set up the pole with the intention of holding on the 'deck'. A number six elastic with a 2.5lb hook length to a size 18 B511 (fine wire) hook was the chosen gear.

After about an hour of catching a few small fish I had a bite and the rubber sure did do its stretching exercises. Ten minutes of hard fight later a super river tench was in my landing net. Twenty minutes later and another bite resulted in another great battle and a second tench was eventually in my landing net. Both were caught on red maggot! They weighed in at 4lbs 13oz and 4lbs 3oz

If I had hooked these two fish on my rod gear I am absolutely certain I would have lost them. By having them on the pole, I could keep them away from the bank and the tree roots.

Best regards

Albert Baker

Longbridge

Fishing news record

for last 6 months

fish/catcher	lb	oz	location	method	date caught	BAA News edition
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Barbel

River Severn

Gaz from Wigan	12	6	Middle Severn		28/07/2012	July 2013
John Morgan	8	2	Holt Fleet weir		05/07/2013	Aug 2013
Darren Lynton	8	2	Holt Fleet weir		05/07/2013	Aug 2013
Matthew Roberts	7		Danery	Ledgered maggots	03/07/2013	Aug 2013
Chris Manns	6	12	Underdale	Water at 5°C	03/03/2013	April 2013

River Avon

Mark Farmar	13	8		Hemp & Garlic cheesy pellets	12/03/2013	Aug 2013
Alan Newstead	10	2	Fladbury Weir			Aug 2013

River Teme

Colin Salmon	11	0			15/07/2013	Aug 2013
Tony Barnett	8	3	Cotheridge	Luncheon meat rolling ledger	22/06/2013	Aug 2013

Bream

Pools

John Snape	7		Mythe	Luncheon meat	04/06/2013	Aug 2013
Kevin Smith	3	13	Coppice		28/04/2013	May 2013
Kevin Smith	3	5	Coppice		15/08/2013	Sept 2013
Kevin Smith	3	3	Coppice		15/08/2013	Sept 2013

Common Carp

River Salwarpe

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

Jim Clarke	19		Coppice			July 2013
Kevin Smith	16	7	Coppice		09/08/2013	Sept 2013
Andy Marsh	16	4	Nordley Pool 2	PVA bag with pellets, hair rigged cheesy hemp/garlic pellet tight in margins	27/05/2013	June 2013
Kevin Smith	15	10	Coppice		09/08/2013	Sept 2013
Kevin Smith	13	15	Coppice		01/08/2013	Sept 2013
Kevin Smith & Son	13	15	Coppice		15/08/2013	Sept 2013
Kevin Smith	13	10	Coppice		09/08/2013	Sept 2013
Andy Marsh	13	1	Nordley Pool 2		20/05/2013	June 2013

Kevin Smith	12	15	Coppice	01/08/2013	Sept 2013
Andy Marsh	12	4	Nordley Pool 2	20/05/2013	June 2013

Mirror Carp

Pools

Scott Lote	18		Coppice	Mainline cell topped with pop up corn covered in korda goo	08/06/2013	July 2013
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	14	4	Coppice		01/08/2013	Sept 2013
Kevin Smith	13		Coppice		27/04/2013	May 2013
Andy Marsh	11	8	Nordley Pool 2		20/05/2013	June 2013
Kevin Smith & Son	11		Nordley Pool 2	Taken off top on pop-up	01/06/2013	July 2013
Andy Marsh	9	14	Nordley Pool 2	PVA bag with pellets, hair rigged cheesy hemp/garlic pellet tight in margins	27/05/2013	June 2013
Andy Marsh	9	12	Nordley Pool 2		20/05/2013	June 2013
Kevin Smith & Son	8	6	Nordley Pool 2		01/06/2013	July 2013

Chub

River Avon

Adam King	6	10	Pershore	Double caster 16 hook	20/06/2013	Sept 2013
Gary Watts	2	8	Pershore	Gary's first chub of the season	16/06/2013	July 2013

River Severn

John Morgan	4	11	Holt Fleet weir		05/07/2013	Aug 2013
Darren Lynton	4	4	Holt Fleet weir		05/07/2013	Aug 2013
Chris Manns	4	0	Underdale	Water at 5°C	03/03/2013	April 2013

River Teme

Tony Barnett	5	2	Cotheridge	Free lined cheese	22/06/2013	Aug 2013
Tony Barnett	4	8	Cotheridge	Ledgered luncheon meat	16/06/2013	Aug 2013

Tench

River Avon

Albert Baker	4	13	Pensham 2	Red maggot	26/08/2013	Sept 2013
Albert Baker	4	3	Pensham 2	Red maggot	26/08/2013	Sept 2013

Zander

River Avon

Tony Barnett	6	0	Barton Weir	Ledger luncheon meat	29/06/2013	Aug 2013
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Nature views

Late summer on the Teme

The Fisheries Team have visited our fisheries at Lindridge and Eastham Bridge during August. This has given me the opportunity to capture pictures of the countryside as it moves from summer into autumn.



Hops soon for the beer and sloes on a blackthorn bush ideal for gin.



Himalayan Balsam by the rapids



Marsh Thistle



Banks of the Teme in high summer bloom



Bed time for the sheep



Executive update



Bailiffing

To date 488 bailiffing operations had taken place, with 1769 anglers checked and 157 removed. This represented an evasion rate of 8.8%

Evesham Angling Festival

The BAA's new trailer got its' first outing at the 2013 Evesham Angling Festival over the August bank Holiday weekend.



The trailer proved a great success, giving us a space where we can display information about the Association, its' waters and meet and talk to interested visitors and members. We were able to sign up a good number of new members with the Festival special offer of the remainder of 2013 and 2014 membership at the 2013 price.

The new trailer gives the BAA the ability to visit and promote itself at other events throughout the region.

Holt Fleet

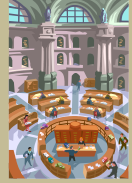
British Waterways staff at Holt Fleet have reported problems of antisocial behaviour by some BAA members when using the fishery. If you plan to fish at Holt Fleet please follow the following simple process;

1. Park close to the side of the access road and do not block the road or access to any of the properties.
2. Enter the fishery by the gate and cross the lock via the lock gate indicated by British Waterways staff.
3. Do not cross the lock gate if it is about to be opened.
4. Show your BAA membership card to the British Waterways staff on duty.



Archive extracts

Midland Angler



Below are extracts from the September 1962 edition, the forerunner to the BAA News.

Midland Rivers Under The Microscope

New Hope For Pollution Black Spots

How long will it be before the fishless River Stour once again holds dace and chub, and perhaps even trout? Is the Severn as clean as it might be? Is anything being done to halt the pollution that in the past couple of years has decimated the fish population in the little River Arrow? When will sport improve permanently in the upper reaches of the Warwickshire Avon, for so long affected by sewage effluent from Rugby and Coventry?

The answers to many of these questions appear in the newly-published report on a ten-year survey of Midland rivers recently completed by the Severn River Board.

Taking the Severn first, the report reveals that there has been little change in the main river over the past decade. There are still one or two black spots, notably a short distance below Shrewsbury, where the quality of the river deteriorates suddenly, and at Stourport where effluent from the grossly polluted Stour enters the Severn, but on the whole the river remains in fairly good condition.

It is when the report deals with some of the tributaries that the troubles really start and anglers are given a glimpse of the vast amount of work necessary before some of them can be brought back to life.

After pointing out, ironically perhaps, that the Worcestershire Stour was once a fast-flowing trout stream, the report reveals that today only the first mile of this once-lovely little river is reasonably clean. The remaining 27 miles of its course through the Black Country to the Severn are described as "unwholesome and thoroughly unsatisfactory".

The main cause of this unhappy state of affairs is that large volumes of sewage effluent are discharged into a river system which has insufficient clean water to dilute them. Of the twenty effluents that enter the Stour only four are satisfactory and to

make matters even worse the river suffers still further from the influx of additional pollution from twenty-three tributary streams, all but one of which have unsatisfactory discharges flowing into them.

On the upper Avon, thanks mainly to the recent completion of the third extension to Coventry's sewage works at Finham, the picture is a little brighter. Although it is too early to be certain, a marked improvement in sport at Stratford, Hampton Lucy and other places is believed to have been due to the improvements at Finham. Many more exhaustive tests will however have to be made before the new pattern of water quality in the Avon's upper and middle reaches can be clearly seen.

Whether or not this improvement will in fact continue, and how quickly the stream will follow the path to full wholesomeness depends, states the report, on the implementation by Coventry of plans for still more extensions to their sewage works.

The unfortunate River Arrow, which until fairly recently, was a thoroughly wholesome stream throughout most of its length, is in a similar but less happy position.

Following complaints of a pollution that killed considerable numbers of coarse fish and trout in the Coughton area, river board inspectors found the condition of the river thoroughly bad. Cyanide was present in the Coughton district and in the remainder of its course to the Avon below Bidford the river was unsatisfactory, in some cases decidedly so.

The position, states the report, is comparable to the upper reaches of the Avon—the head waters are receiving a volume of effluent too great for them to bear. And, unbelievable though it may sound, the biggest culprit among the local authorities concerned is Redditch, home of 90% of the fishing tackle trade in this country

Will things change during the next decade, and will 1972 see the Severn improved, the Arrow restored to its former status and anglers fishing the filthy Stour for the first time in living memory?

There are hopes, at least. The river board admits that there is an urgent need for improved sewage disposal facilities at Redditch and is pressing for these to be completed as a matter of urgency. They are also insisting that by 1967 all existing and new discharges into the River Stour will be of a quality high enough to enable coarse fish to live in the main stream, and that the side streams are capable of sustaining trout.

If these demands are met, if Coventry, Redditch and other authorities are compelled to put their houses in order, anglers in the Midlands can surely look forward to new horizons and vastly improved sport in the years ahead.

FOR PENSIONERS ONLY

An old age pensioner's book and a Trent licence are the only requirements for entry to the first of what is hoped will be a regular annual contest for O.A.P.'s in the Birmingham area.

The match, due to be held at Salford Reservoir, Birmingham, on September 29th., will be started by T. A. Waterhouse, former B.A.A. and N.F.A. President, now in his 86th. year but still as hale and hearty as ever.

ONE FOR THE WITHAM

Tickets (5/-) are now available from R. Hobley, 57 Woodhall Drive, Lincoln, for the annual Tom Sails Memorial Match scheduled for the Witham on September 16th.

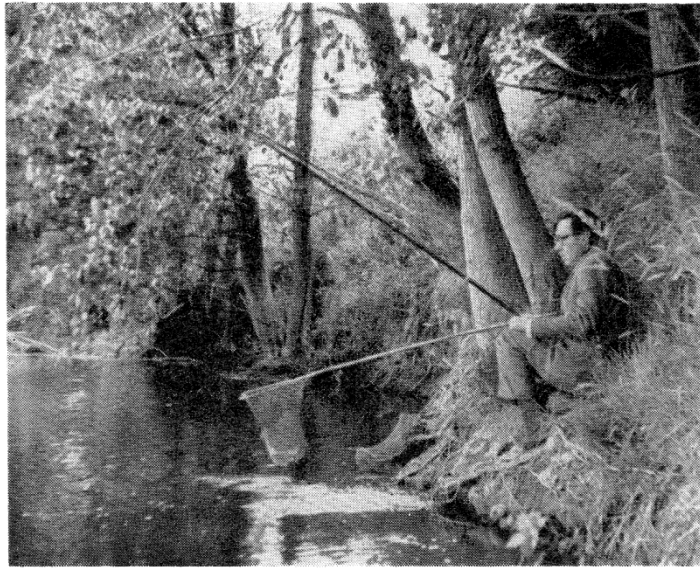
The whole of the income from this event, which is open to individuals and teams of four, will be returned in prize money.

**ROUND B.A.A.
WATERS**
with
JIM WHEAT

Jim's third visit to this tree-lined swim (right) resulted in a frantic hour with the chub.

BROADWAS

—A Leafy
Temeside Paradise



I HAD to make three trips to the B.A.A.'s fishery on the Teme before I weighed up this fascinating stretch of water. The first two involved a lot of wasted effort, for on each occasion I went with a few thought out theories that did not come up to expectations. Even on the third visit the only thing I was sure of was that the B.A.A. Handbook was right when it described this water as 'attractive'. It winds so much that there is much more room than first impressions are inclined to give. Four meadows (only one of them big) does not seem much, yet there is plenty of room; even a Sunday crowd seems to get lost there, probably because of the high banks and trees.

Broadwas looks a good chub stretch, and probably is. There are plenty of fast runs and long stretches that are not easy to fish because of the steep banks and overhanging trees but repay with perseverance. On my first visit I chose an attractive-looking 'chubby' spot and wasted a lot of time on it. The river there ran fast over some rocks and then turned sharply right under a huge tree. This was at the beginning of the third meadow, which is the largest of the four.

To me this looked just right for

chub and I had some thumping bites there on ledger. Indeed, every cast produced one or more bites, some from small chub of no consequence and some from fish that baffled me because I could not hook them.

A smaller hook and bait would probably have told me earlier, for eventually I hooked one and was surprised to find it was a gudgeon. I could understand a Teme gudgeon, which seem to be all mouth, attacking a big bait, but what shook me was the strength of their bites. Anyway, that mystery solved, I was able to look at the water in a more general way.

The next trip was a short one. I was still attracted by the possibilities of the fast water under the big tree, but after a dabble there I soon realised that it was reserved for the gudgeon and moved off to a tree-lined spot where I had a frantic hour with the chub, the slippery bank and the tall overhead trees.

The trees were the hardest to overcome. With float tackle I could have swung a bait out and let it trot down. But I persisted with the ledger tackle and eventually solved the problem of casting a weight from a spot where I could not raise the rod upright due to the trees directly above my head. I did it by digging my heels into the

steep bank (nearly vertical at this point), pointing my rod tip at the water and making some sort of a golf shot. Notwithstanding the time I spent untangling tackle, I caught four small chub inside the last hour—all very small. However this set me alight and I could hardly wait for the next week-end to arrive. When it did I had a very enjoyable day.

The water was as low as it had been all the summer. I found chub along the tree-lined stretches and without concentrating on one spot moved pretty well all along the fishery. In all I had eight fish from a pound to a pound-and-a-half, which, according to the 'regulars', seemed to be the usual size. I would not like to say that much bigger fish do not exist at Broadwas, but I think you would be considered fortunate to see anything heavier than 1½-lb.

From my own observations (and I expect to be howled down) the average size of chub decreases as you go lower down any river. At Broadwas the Teme has very nearly finished its run; in a few miles it joins the Severn. I've had much better fish higher up at Ashford Bowler and I have found things to be roughly the same on the Severn. Last autumn,

Continued on page 24

ROUND B.A.A. WATERS

Continued from page 13

I had catches averaging 2½-lb at Bicton; 2-lb at Buildwas and 1½-lb at Bevere.

At Broadwas, under low water conditions, I found the chub in the fast moving water just above and below the broken stretches where it runs over a shallow rocky bottom. The bigger fish were at the head of the swim. The spot I have described earlier, which yielded four small fish along the tree-lined stretch, was some distance below one of these fast runs.

Under such summer level conditions I am sure that it was suitable water the fish were seeking rather than bankside conditions. It was not the trees which appealed to the fish. It was the depth and the current and the food in the deepening water below the shallows. All eight were taken far from the bank.

Broadwas, for me, inter t on covering as much of it as I could, was something of a Commando course. After being cooped up all the week,

climbing those very steep banks was a pleasant experience, but I still don't know if I would have done better by staying in one place. Perhaps not, for although the first bite in a swim came very quickly, the second was much slower. I think that when you have caught one chub, you might as well move rather than wait for the swim to settle down, although this did not prove to be the case with the four small ones caught within the hour.

A fly fisherman there had other views. He complained that there were too many chub. Every cast brought a small chub, but no trout. Another angler I met had a fine bag of dace caught on maggot.

One thing at least is sure: Broadwas is one of the most pleasant fisheries I've met in B.A.A. waters. Most of the banks are very steep and could be treacherous in wet weather but there are one or two places easily accessible. The beer's O.K. too.

Match Reports

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

Blue Ball AC

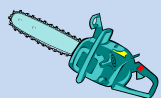
Sunday 11th August

Ladyham, River Severn

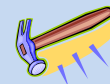
1 st	Dave Lloyd	4lb	1oz
2 nd	Ken Young	3lb	12oz
3 rd	Glyn Price-Hunt	2lb	6oz

Mixed bags of bleak, roach and perch

Report from Brian Marsh



Fisheries diary



Monday 5th August

Planned to visit Grimley and cut back summer growth around pegs in meadows 5, 6 and 7 downstream of our car park. This was cancelled due to forecast heavy rain (which didn't arrive).

Wednesday 7th August

River Severn, Stourport, Newhalls Meadow; cut back summer vegetation and trim trees around the pegs to make them more fishable.



As can be seen in the picture above, one of our trimmers got tangled up with a large amount of discarded fishing line. Please don't discard any line on the bank no matter how short the length put it in the bin at home.

Monday 12th August

River Severn Birds Meadow; cutting back of summer vegetation. We found many wasp nests here, unfortunately one of the team trimmed one and got stung 4 times on the legs ouch!

Wednesday 14th August

River Teme, Lindridge; alongside the two upstream fields as far as the wood, trimmed the pegs and dug out steps. Also trimmed a path through the grass alongside the two fields to make walking to the pegs a bit easier, as the corn in fields is about 6ft high and planted close to the bank.



We removed the fallen tree blocking access to the first footbridge downstream then trimmed and cut out a number of pegs in the first two downstream fields.

Wednesday 21st August

As we have completed most of the cut back of summer vegetation alongside our river fisheries, we have reverted to generally working Wednesdays only.



River Teme, Eastham Bridge; from our car park by the bridge too downstream about half a mile to the bend in the river and the rapids, we strimmed the pegs and dug out steps down to the river, removed or cut out gaps in fallen trees trunks blocking access and trimmed nearby trees.

We then moved to our car park in the field alongside the lay-by opposite the turning for Woodston Manor, where we strimmed, step dug and tree trimmed from the wood upstream about half a mile.

For anglers who use this fishery, please be aware that the BAA owns the small field which is accessed through a gate (permanently open) from the lay-by. Park your car in this field but leave access for farm vehicle accessing the field behind from the road through our car park.

Wednesday 28th August

River Severn, Ripple; replacement of steps down to pegs and general cut back.

Friday 30th August

River Anker, Bolehall; trees trimmed and reeds and water lilies cut back around pegs

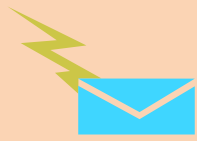
Cothridge footbridge closed

BAA received notice from Worcestershire County Council, Public Rights Of Way Officer of their intention to remove the footbridge at Cothridge (by our car park) as it is no longer safe to use. They have also informed us that the true line of the public footpath is some 30 metres to the North of where the current bridge is located and the exact position of any replacement bridge would need to be surveyed.

As a result of this, the footbridge is now closed and access to our Cothridge Fishery upstream of the footbridge is now blocked off.

We will keep you updated as to what temporary access we can install to reopen access to our upstream meadows and the plans of Worcestershire County Council of replacing the footbridge.

NB: A readers' letter from Neil Jones mentions a three week closure of the bridge.



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.

John

Could you please pass on to your work party our Thanks for the hard work they have put in at Barton after the chain and gate were removed our Association is very lucky to have such loyal Members, while fishing we noticed another brand new peg which was completely overgrown and could not be seen from path so we also cleared this and is now ready for fishing the peg is safe and sturdy.

We have also fished the Fladbury area during the season and found the local bailiff (Think his name is Lee) very helpful and courteous, tight lines to all.

Many Thanks

Stephen Smith.

Dear Dave Jones and members of the bank clearing team,

Thank you all for your work on clearing all those pegs at Pensham. It enabled us to have a trouble free contest. Carry on with the good work it was much appreciated and I'll see you at the A.G.M.

Yours

Trevor Terry,

Kings Heath Caledonian Corks

Hi,

I was wondering if the name Ken Pardoe means anything to you? I am his grandson and my mother tells me some 30 odd years ago he was involved with the association and I was hoping you would have some records of him or any information or pictures of him fishing, I am a keen carp fisherman myself and would love to find out more about him as I never got to meet him as he sadly died before I was born, sorry if I have the wrong association.

Kind regards

Adam Sheldrick

Hi Adam,

Yes, I knew Ken very well. We served together on the BAA Executive and Management Committees for a number of years until he sadly died in I think the June of 1986. Ken joined the Executive Committee in 1979 and worked on a number of sub-committees, most notably the Contest Committee. He also served as the BAA Superintendent Bailiff for a short while and was still in that post when he died. After he passed away the Association dedicated a memorial contest after him and for many years the Ken Pardoe Memorial Cup was fished annually. Sadly we no longer run any contest, however the Ken Pardoe silver Trophy still exists and is in storage. I have many fond memories of Ken and indeed it was he who designed and had produced our enamel BAA Executive badges - I believe he had some contacts in the Jewellery Quarter at the time.

Regards.

John Williams

Dear editor

I arrived at Pershore Weir this am (first light) having driven from Brum (rare day off). Hot footed it across the meadows to the weir only to find 2 men fishing, with fire going made from branches around fishing area (they had a hand saw which had been used and a petrol can). Said hello to them and asked them if they had any luck.....no response.....they had clearly been there overnight.....they left at approx 8.30 am. Fished a peg below the weir and there was remnants of a fire as well.....am all for "each to there own".....however i have just checked your website and there is no mention of night fishing.....is this stretch available to be fished by non- members of BAA (with night fishing permits issued)? if the answer is "yes" then fair enough! if however the answer is "no" I would be interested to know what the BAA plan to do in light of my experience. In addition a BAA member who was fishing the peg next to me (arrived later in the day) said that there was a dead fish on the bank behind the weir peg.....I am not apportioning blame towards the 2 men? As there are many possible explanations as to how this recently dead fish came to be situated were it was. In addition there was a lot of litter on the weir pool riverbank and the 2 swims below the weir, none washed up by flooding, all recent by the looks of it.

On the positive side I had a bag of chub in excess of 30lbs, best was just over 5lb, all in pristine condition.

Regards

Simon

Hi Simon,

Thank you for the report. No, we do not allow night fishing at Pershore, so the two anglers you encountered were (assuming that they had been there all night) fishing illegally. I have passed on the report to our Superintendent Bailiff, who no doubt will take the necessary steps to prevent any recurrence.

Cheers.

John Williams

Hi,

I am contacting you to make you aware of the state of the fish in Coppice Pool. I seem to be catching more and more fish with either no lips or half the mouth missing, yesterday 16 Aug I went for a late afternoon session and one of the fish I caught was so disfigured I felt sickened, the whole front of its face had been ripped off and had healed resulting in a flattened face (no nostrils) and a mouth barely a quarter inch in size in fact it was just a tiny hole shaped like a diamond. Almost every other fish is badly damaged, to see it sickens me and makes me want to stop fishing. I know it is not the BAA who is responsible but bad fishing by some individuals who have never been shown how to fish (or just don't care) and what the clutch on a reel is for. I have come across this type of angler on occasions who have 20lb braid and a 3lb test rod clutch locked solid and strike into a fish like you would if big game fishing, somehow these people need to be informed on how to set up tackle and to have respect for the fish otherwise I can see fishing becoming classed as a cruel sport and banned as this is happening country wide to large majestic fish. I myself am old school and like catching on light tackle 6lb line for large carp 20lb plus no problem at Coppice usually surface fishing, which has been blamed for lip loss this is rubbish it is bad fishing causes these injuries. Perhaps something could be put on the notice board making people aware of correct fishing methods to stop these horrific injuries and maybe it will help people become more aware of why we have clutches on reels and how to play a fish not just drag it in. I believe that people who own or run fisheries have a moral duty to make an effort in supporting the welfare of there fish stocks. Also the pool needs water and maybe one or two reed beds, as far as I can see, because of the head of fish in Coppice they are relying on anglers for food, after the recent closure the fish seem to be extremely hungry.

Mal Starling

Ed,

Thanks for your message raising your concerns about damage to the carp. I will raise it at the next Executive meeting to discuss what can be done.

As no one catches small carp at Coppice, it would appear that they are not breeding and we have a fixed population of these fish. Making the issue to fish damage something that will affect an increasing percentage, especially with the number of carp anglers who use the Lake.

During July when Coppice Lake was closed we did notice that the water became very muddy, due we believe to the carp rooting in the bottom to find food due to the absence of ground bait provided by anglers.

As the level on the lake has dropped due to the warm dry summer, we have noticed that the banks are being eroded due we believe to wave action. To minimise the erosion and to add natural plants to the lake to increase the natural food and oxygen level, we are planning to plant reeds along the dam (the right hand side of the lake when seen from the car park). The reeds have been ordered from a supplier in Norfolk and are delivered in a strip of coconut matting, looking somewhat like a strip of lawn turf. If the delivery arrives as scheduled, we are planning to put the reed into the lake on Tuesday 3rd September. We are not closing the lake, but fishing near where we are working will not be possible.

Regarding your question of water supply; the lake has a number of piped water feeds from the surrounding land and a feed from the nearby stream. All these supplies rely on rainfall, so in a period of dry weather the lake water level falls. We have had surveys carried out to ascertain if supplies of ground water are available that we could pump into the lake, but none are available.

Dear BAA

Bearing in mind the obvious increase in instances of illegal fishing and inappropriate behaviour by certain parties on waters such as the Avon at Pershore Weir, can you inform the membership on how this increasing problem will be tackled? I refer, by the way, to people who are fishing after dark, cutting down trees and lighting fires, and to cap it all, eating their catch. I am sure you will agree that this is a very serious issue and needs to be addressed - it will not simply disappear. What are the BAA's plans to address this and what would your advice be to members who experience these people?

I appreciate this is not an easy issue to deal with, but. I would be interested in your comments and feel that members need to know how the BAA intends to tackle this threat to our sport. I would hope that this will be raised as an issue in the next BAA newsletter.

Regards

Neil Jones

Hi Neil,

It is obvious that you are greatly concerned about this issue and I can assure you that so is the Association.

You state "... obvious increase in instances of illegal fishing ..." however you do not furnish any evidence to support the allegation. During the past two years we have received only one confirmed report of such illegal activity taking place and on that occasion we were able to attend the site and catch the culprits red handed. They were dealt with appropriately. Apart from that incident, all we ever get are anecdotal reports, usually several days after the alleged event, from people who are usually only speculating about what may have gone on and with no actual evidence to support their assertions. In these circumstances and without firm evidence to contrary, as far as we are concerned nothing has taken place.

You also ask what advice we would give to members and that I can answer very simply; Any member who sees anything which they think is illegal activity taking place should, in the first instance, report the matter immediately to the nearest police station or dial 999 straight away. As a secondary course of action, the matter should be reported at once to the BAA on the office number of 01562 882116 or, if out of office hours, the emergency mobile number which is quoted on the recorded message when the office is closed. The third course of action which I would suggest is for concerned members to challenge anyone they see on the bank who they think may be acting inappropriately and to ask to see their BAA membership. If the person does produce a membership then a note should be made of the name and membership number. This will enable us to take further action if necessary. If the person refuses to show a membership card, or states that they are not members, then they should be told to vacate the water. All BAA members have the right to inspect the credentials of any person found to be fishing on BAA water, similarly, every member has a duty to show their membership to any other BAA member who asks to see it - this is enshrined in the Association Bye-laws. The only caveat which I would

attach to this advice is that members should not, under any circumstances, put themselves at physical risk and if they are at all unsure of what to do - to do nothing.

Finally, you ask what the Association is going to do. Well, I have copied your report, together with my response, to both the President / Chairman of the Association and to the Superintendant Bailiff, both of whom I am sure, will ensure that the matter is given further consideration.

Regards

John Williams

Hi,

Just a quick question re Pershore left bank. I went there yesterday with the intention of fishing the weir pegs only to find the whole top field is now closed to fishing due to the building of a hydro electric project.

As it turns out I had a cracking day fishing just above the bridge and caught from the first to the last cast. Whilst I was there several other fishermen turned up to head up to the weir only to be disappointed. Has this project been advertised in the monthly news? And if not could it be to avoid further disappointment?

Also the sign in the car park says the weir area is closed for fishing whilst construction is in progress however a local dog walker told me that the project will alter the weir so that it will not be fishable ever again. Can you confirm either way?

Cheers,

Ben.

Hi Ben,

Yes, the land owner is about to start constructing a hydropower generator on the weir at Pershore. The result will be that a proportion of the flow of the river will be diverted through a system of sluices to drive turbines. The water will then re-enter the main river below the weir. The precise impact of the installation is unknown as yet, however it will definitely reduce the amount of water flowing over the weir at times and indeed at times of low flow could even stop any flow over the weir at all. How the scheme will affect the fishing we do not as yet know, nor whether we shall be able to access the weir again once the work is completed.

Regards,

John Williams

Hi there,

I visited Eastham Bridge on the river Teme Friday 23rd August. I just wanted to mention that despite steep river banks, access to all pegs was excellent! I can only guess this is due to the hard work of the BAA working party. Vegetation was cut back and steps had been dug into the banks, I think that many swims would have been near impossible to access were it not for the work. So I just wanted to make sure everyone is aware how much this effort is appreciated.

Shame about the litter in the car park, lots of empty cider cans which I took away and would urge other members to do the same with any litter they find. Even if this litter has not been left by members, many people will think anglers are responsible.

John Snape.

Ed,

Thanks for your comments; I will pass them on to the rest of the team.

Hello there

Are you aware that the footbridge enabling access to the Teme stretch above the car park at Cotheridge is closed and will be for the next three weeks? I just wondered if there is any way you can inform members on the website, as this is the most popular section of that particular stretch. Access at the moment is virtually impossible / dangerous.

Thanks

Neil Jones

Ed,

Thanks for your information. We had been notified by Worcestershire County Council, Public Rights Of Way Officer of their intention to remove the footbridge at Cotheridge as it is no longer safe and have put an item in the Fisheries diary section to inform members of this. We were not informed of the duration of the closure, so your note is very useful, thank you.

Angling Trust Media Release

Google Profits from Fishing Licence Rip-Off Ads



The Angling Trust has continued its high profile campaign against internet rod licence rip-off's and this week slammed Google for advertising web sites which take advantage of hard-pressed anglers trying to buy a rod licence by charging them a £20 administration fee for a £27 rod licence, despite offering no additional service whatsoever.

The internet giant had taken down the adverts when the scam was exposed on taken up by BBC Radio 4's You and Yours programme, but they have since re-appeared. Searches for "buy rod licence" or "fishing licence" on Google generate a list of results that are headed up with sponsored links to the offending sites - rodlicence.net and rodfishinglicence.com. The only place where anglers should buy a rod licence on-line currently is from www.postoffice.co.uk or alternatively over the counter in a Post Office.

The Angling Trust, who first raised this issue back in March, is very concerned that the sites are likely to be affecting rod licence sales because unsuspecting anglers are finding that the cost of a licence has rocketed. A government ban on all marketing by its agencies in the past three years has reversed a decade of steadily-increasing rod licence sales and as a result revenues to the Environment Agency have been decreasing each year. Because of the marketing ban, these unscrupulous companies are able to take advantage of anglers trying to buy their rod licence on the internet, and they pay Google a fee for every angler who clicks on one of the sponsored links.

Angling Trust Chief Executive Mark Lloyd said: "surely Google make enough money without having to benefit from a scam that rips off hard working men and women who are simply seeking to comply with the law and buy a rod licence to support the work of the Environment Agency which maintains, improves and develops fisheries in England. We urge them to do the decent thing and remove these sponsored links to these appalling sites

for good. It is suspicious that the sites were removed when Google's spokesman was put on the spot on the radio, but then mysteriously re-appeared."

He continued: "The Government must lift the senseless marketing ban on the Environment Agency that stops it spending any money to promote licence sales. The rod licence income is vital to funding protection of our fisheries and supporting the work of organisations in the voluntary sector helping to deliver the National Angling Strategy. Anyone who knows anything about business will tell you that if you stop marketing a product sales will fall, and that is exactly what has happened with rod licences. The situation is made worse by these scammers taking money from anglers to sell them a licence they could buy for £20 less via the Post Office web site or counter."

"If you use Google search and come across these sites advertised we encourage anglers to use the quick and easy "Send feedback" option at the bottom of the screen to let Google know you are not happy to see these scammers appearing."

Lem Brook Himalayan Balsam carnage!

We've just finished a pilot project with the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust in the Wyre Forest which seeks to completely wipe out Himalayan Balsam (HB) along the length of an entire stream.

Why – it's pretty!



There's loads of HB growing along streams and rivers right across the UK and it does indeed look very impressive. It was introduced to the UK in 1839 as a garden plant. Problem is, it's too successful at spreading and out-competes native plants resulting in large areas where nothing else grows. It also spreads very quickly, particularly along watercourses. HB produces 5-6000 viable seeds per square metre!

In the winter the HB all dies back leaving large areas of bank free of vegetation. When there is a flood or high water a lot of soil gets washed into the stream or river clogging the gravels on the bed. Fish and insects then find it difficult to breed and survive in these conditions.

Problems in the Wyre

The Dowles Brook is the largest stream running through the Wyre. We know that sediment is a problem and one of the reasons it fails its Water Framework Directive status.



By carrying out extensive surveys of the area (on foot!), we found the worst HB problems were on the Lem which is a small tributary of the Dowles Brook.

So our plan is to blitz the Lem Brook and see if HB can be completely eradicated.

What we've done

The challenge is big. We've contacted 28 landowners and carried out a detailed survey of 6km of brook.

Out of them 16 landowners are directly involved and 3km of bankside have been completely cleared by hand.



We know that HB seeds stay viable for up to 2 years so we will be returning next year and beyond. We will also continue to survey any re-growth and monitor any improvements in water quality.

Some folk think hand pulling can't achieve full eradication. We're carrying this project out on a single small catchment to see if it can!



Note:

The above article was written by Dave Throupe, Environment Agency Manager for Hereford and Worcestershire and is available via the following hyperlink;

<http://davethroupea.wordpress.com/>