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B.A.A. NEWS



Tel 01562-882116 Fax 01562-882126
Email baajnw@btinternet.com Website www.baa.uk.com
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March 2014

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&
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Bailiffing

'Watch out, there's a bailiff about!'

Despite the recent bad weather and high river levels, BAA bailiffs have still been out on our mostly flooded waters to keep an eye on things. Quite a number of hardy anglers have been checked by the team and some members have reported good catches in the high water - just a case of knowing where to fish.

Our bailiffs, together with our members of course, are the eyes and ears of the Association and their presence out on the water, even during bad spells, means that problems are reported early. It's not just about checking membership cards either, as many of the bailiffs have passed on reports of fallen trees, debris causing problems, access issues and advised on essential maintenance during the winter period.

If you like being active and would like to support the Association by becoming a bailiff, please contact Kevin Pearson, Superintendent Bailiff by email on baakgp1@btinternet.com or by phoning the BAA office and leaving your details.



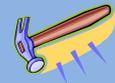
Executive update



A temporary barrier had been sited across the access to the Cotheridge fishery. The barrier will be removed once the river levels have fallen back.



Fisheries report

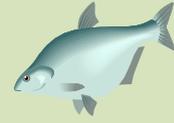


Due to the bad weather and flooding in recent weeks the work carried out by the Fisheries Work Party has been restricted to the removal of two trees at Coppice Lake that had fallen down in the high winds.

We have also been talking to a contractor regarding removing the tree stumps and laying a layer of stones in the car park extension at Coppice Lake and filling in the holes in the access track, will keep you informed.



Fishing news



Wet and windy Coppice day



Bailiff Colin Townsend bumped into member Gary Watts at Coppice Pool on a wet and windy February day.

Despite the bad weather Gary was still smiling proudly showing a perfect condition Coppice skimmer.

You may recall Gary's smiling face when Colin came across him catching his first chub of the season on June 16th last year.

Coppice carp and mud



Hi all Kev of Birmingham back with another report from Coppice.

I popped over to do a 26 hour stint on Friday 31st Jan to find that the road to the car park with EVEN BIGGER POT HOLE'S then the last time I was there have you got any plans to fill these in?

The banks were like a mud bath, no more like a mud filled swimming pool but that's the weather for you I believe January has been the wettest month on record.

Anyway back to the fishing I had 3 commons out all coming in the darkness the 1st one 15lb 12oz, 2nd 11lb 11oz and the 3rd 11lb 06oz. The last pic below is of the mud stuck to my boots!

I almost forgot the tree surgeon team turned up to remove a tree that had fell over blocking access around Coppice and a bailiff. It's good to see the BAA team doing such a great job well done to one and all at the BAA much thanks.

Kev of Birmingham

Severn flood

Holt Fleet



Visited Holt Fleet on Monday 10th February. Could not get to the weir as the access road was under water. As you can see from the picture above, the river level was almost to the top of the lock gates with the weir invisible under several feet of water. The picture was taken from the Holt Fleet road bridge downstream of the weir and lock.



The picture above is the view from the Holt Fleet Hotel on the other side of the bridge.

Arley



As it was a nice day I took a trip to Arley on Tuesday 18th February, the sun was shining and the Severn was still in flood. The level had been about three feet higher in the early morning covering the top of the white railings in the pictures above but was now falling.



The snowdrops were out in the hedge on the road up to Arley Station and looks like the people who run the Harbour Inn fishery car park are flood aware!



Archive extracts



Below are extracts from the March 1959 1960 editions of the Midland Angler, the forerunner to the BAA News.

STUDY THAT RIVER BED — IT PAYS! says NORMAN WOODWARD

THE question of the composition of the bed of a river or lake is something to which few anglers devote much attention. One or two might try to find themselves a nice shingle or sandy run: the remainder never seem to bother because they do not realise that the nature of the bottom often decides whether or not they will catch fish.

On smallish rivers that have clear water at normal level, it is an easy matter to explore the variations which indicate where fish will feed; one has only to spend a few hours wading and making observations. Sometimes it is also possible to spot likely places by looking for sediment, which is certain to collect in the same place as any food which comes downstream. On other occasions when trying to locate less obvious fish lies,

*Strictly For
Specimen
Hunters*

I've found a ball of soft mud placed upstream very useful. This dissolves quite slowly, and by following the cloud you can find places which will bring their rewards at a later date.

Some of you may feel that such explorations are a waste of good fishing time, but in actual fact it is a much greater waste of time to fish twice as long in the wrong spot!

To illustrate just how valuable such experiments can be, I'd like to describe one particular spot I discovered when wading recently—particularly as we shall soon have lots of time available in the close season to experiment still further.

I spent about an hour examining a fast run about 12in. deep, and eventually found a small area of the bed near one bank which consisted of pure sand. This area was immediately in front of three trees—so so that the bottom could only be examined by wading in the stream.

I made up some mud balls, and, by experimenting, found the precise spot upstream which would ensure that the resulting discolouration passed over the sandy spot. Each ball broke up and the muddy water moved quite fast until it reached the silted area where it swirled round, and eddied for quite some time before dispersing downstream.

The next time I fished that river I decided to try and extract a chub or two from that spot. I sat on the opposite bank, at a point opposite to where I knew my groundbait must be introduced, and ledgered into the spot with a lead that just held bottom, keeping the rod point high to prevent the fast water dislodging the lead.

I groundbaited steadily for an hour, without result, but carried on because I knew that eventually one or

two chub would come upstream to where the groundbait was originating; I also hoped they would look in my sandy spot and find my bait.

And sure enough they did. Four chub ended up in the keepnet—nothing enormous, but big enough reward for my efforts the previous week-end. Since then I've had quite a few chub from 1lb—3½ lbs. from there. Yet, without prior knowledge, I would have assumed that the water there was going at the same rate as the rest of the swim.

Apart from the contours of a river bed, the actual substance it is composed of can make an enormous difference. Some fish, for example, like to grub in soft ooze. Others, such as roach and perch, prefer to see their food—hence their preference for gravel and sandy beds. Roach *will* grub, though, when the mood takes them. Many uncooperative "tench" and "carp," which "bubble" profusely yet refuse to take the substantial bait normally offered to such fish, are in fact very often small roach.

This question of the composition of a river bed reminds me of some friends of mine who used to live in Bristol, and spent a lot of time fishing the nearby canal. The area they fished was used for loading canal barges, and the whole bed was covered with an even layer of coal slack. So, purely as an experiment, they decided one day to dump in considerable quantities of washed sand.

The result was they became heartily sick of pulling out huge bream, and moved out to allow some of the envious spectators to have a go.

That was many years ago, when anglers had far more time to devote to preparation, and it's highly unlikely that anyone would spend a lot of time and money creating an artificial feeding ground today. But it does illustrate how important it is to locate a bottom on which fish will feed freely, or will associate with a place where food will normally be present.

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My Pals The Perch

by
JIM WHEAT

PERCH are sporty fish, even in canals. Sporty in several ways. Not only in the fighting sense but in their willingness to be interested in various baits and lures.

Spin for them on your canal. Use the wonderful casting power of a light spinning rod, monofil nylon line and a fixed spool reel. This is a combination that will take your smallest spoon across the widest stretch. And which, once your lure is in the water, will give you the control over it that you need.

A strong pliant rod, the elasticity and strength of the line, the quick recovery of a reel with a full spool, will make your spoon spurt through the water in a lifelike manner. Perch will find it attractive.

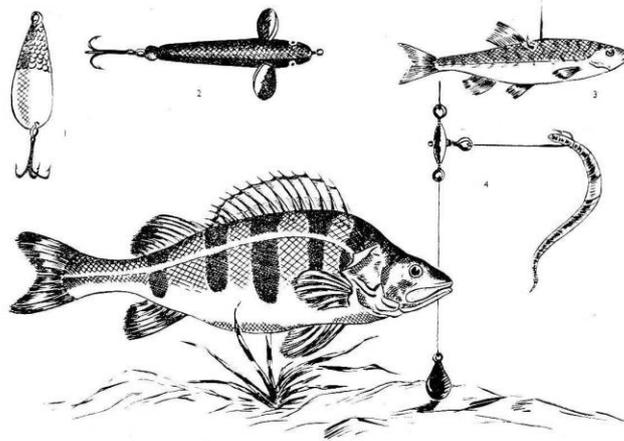
Spin for this bright coloured fish with a small spoon, silver or part-coloured. One half chromed and the other half painted blue is an attractive spoon that looks like a minnow - a favourite perch food.

Spin with a devon. Or use a fly spoon, also designed for big cannibal trout. Try any of the small glittering attractions that are sold in tackle shops. Perch will find them just as interesting as we all do.

When choosing a lure for perch remember the size of your quarry's mouth. It goes the full width of his shoulders; it is, in fact, the fish's widest part. This might suggest that he can take a large spoon and no doubt he could. But large spoons are too long and usually the hook will trail behind for an extra half inch. This trailing hook is apt to foul the gill covers on the outside. We want a clean hooked fish that will be controllable during and uninjured after the fight. So a small lure is sufficient.

Fish like perch and pike were probably created with these wide jaws not so much to take large fish (although they do) but to be able to take small fry comfortably.

As I have said, minnows are a favourite food and a spoon that represents them will be a successful spoon. But of course the real thing



This unusual and informative illustration comes from a new book "The Fish We Catch," by W. E. Davies, which is reviewed on page 22.

may be better. A live minnow, lip hooked, will be irresistible if a perch is near. But it is a slow game and not a pleasant one if you are waiting for our fish to arrive.

Even less pleasant, it is, when the angler takes his minnow on a tour of all the likely spots, dunking it in perchy looking holes for a minute or two and then hauling it out into the air. To carry it perhaps half a mile, dangling, is no way to use or misuse any living creature.

Better to spin your minnow fresh killed, or pickled, on a spinning mount.

If you are a fly fisherman on other occasions, you can use your tackle and smarten up your casting on the local canal. Perch will take a wet fly on canals. A black gnat is a well tried favourite that appeals. Of course you will find a snag in that you have no humps or rings to cast at as you have when using your tackle against the trout it was designed for.

But you can cast at small splashes caused by fry flipping out of the water. When your fly has sunk, retrieve by keeping the rod tip quivering so that your black gnat

jerks in the water and recover line by gentle turns of the reel. Make your black gnat more conspicuous by hooking a maggot so that it shows up white against the fuzzy tangle of feather. This looks natural, there being many forms of insect life with a bulbous after end. The wriggling maggot will give your lure that form of movement you cannot hope to imitate with a rod tip and reel.

You do not need a tapered line and all the expensive tackle beloved by game fishermen. You can cast your black gnat on spinning tackle using a threadline reel with a chock full reel. Big rings on the rod help to cut down friction, and the extra weight to make the cast possible can come from a small split shot. But remember, the canal is not all that deep and a weighted fly will sink rapidly. Keep it off the bottom at mid depth.

The final attribute of perch that makes them so sporty is the fact that they are **always** available. All the season through. Not like tench, not like pike, not like carp. Like the birds of the air—you can always find a perch.



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.

Hi All,

Just been talking to a mate who was at Coppice on Sunday, he got there at about 7am and there was a cormorant feeding on the pool.

During the day he saw a further 12 circling the pool, there was only two anglers on the Pool all day. He also said that the previous Sunday he had counted 22 cormorants over the pool.

It appears that without a presence of anglers the birds are visiting the pool now they cannot feed from the rivers.

Have scarecrows proven to work or any other method available in the short term to stop them finding easy pickings?

I have not been down to Stubbs Pool but dread to think what devastation they have done there.

Colin Townsend

Ed; thanks for the information. We will need to see if the problem persists when the rivers go down and the number of anglers at Coppice increases when the river season closes and the weather improves.

Just a comment on the disgusting amounts of litter at Coppice Lake. I was there on the 19th of Feb and even the car park area had a lot of litter. I am going to make an effort to collect as much as I can and take it home with me. I do not know what can be done to stop this. What about encouraging members to collect as much as they can.

Harry Treadwell

Ed: Harry, thanks for doing your bit and clearing up what you could. Coppice Lake does have a litter problems which is probably due to its popularity. When the Fisheries Team were there recently cutting back the trees and vegetation they collected and burned all the litter they could find.

We put signs up, publish items and letters in this magazine regarding litter but we have not been able to cure the problem which affects society in general not just our fisheries. So until we can find a cure all we can do is clear up behind those who don't care and drop their litter anywhere.



Government Gives Go Ahead for New Cormorant and Goosander Management Plan

We've been campaigning for more than three years for a change to the current bureaucratic and ineffective licensing regime that governs the control of cormorants and goosanders and have now concluded negotiations with the Government on the implementation of new measures, announced last year, to improve the protection of vulnerable fish stocks from predation by cormorants and goosanders.

We are very grateful to everybody who supported us with donations and by sending postcards to their MP. The success we've achieved would not have been possible without this support.

The new measures will include:

- The funding of three [Fisheries Management Advisors](#) (FMAs), to be employed by the Angling Trust from April 2014, to help angling clubs and fishery owners reduce predation, to coordinate applications for licences across catchments and to gather better evidence about the number of birds in each catchment. (**Details of these posts and how to apply are available on the Angling Trust website at www.anglingtrust.net/jobs**)
- A commitment by the government to review the existing national limit on the number of cormorants that can be shot each year in light of evidence gathered by the FMAs from each catchment in 2014 and 2015;
- A simplification of the licence application form to make it easier for fishery managers to apply to control cormorants and goosanders;
- A removal of monthly limits within an annual licence;
- Extension of the control season to May at times of low flow when salmon and sea trout smolt migrations are particularly vulnerable;
- Agreement to increase the national limit for cormorant controls to the emergency level of 3,000 (from 2,000 last year) in 2014/5 if the need can be demonstrated.

New threat to fish from Hydropower Community Grants



The Angling Trust has raised concerns that the Community Energy Strategy announced by Energy Minister Ed Davey today, coupled with the already generous Feed in Tariffs offered by government, will lead to a fresh wave of applications for planning permission for hydropower turbines from community groups that could do great damage to fisheries for many decades to come. In response, the Trust has published a free guidance document to community groups and developers to provide practical advice about how to reduce the impact of hydropower on fish and other wildlife.

The Angling Trust has reviewed hundreds of applications for hydropower schemes in recent years and its experts have concluded that the majority of them would have a detrimental impact on the ecology of rivers. It has successfully objected to numerous schemes and Fish Legal, which acts as the Angling Trust's legal arm in England, even managed to get a legal injunction to stop a major hydropower project going ahead last year on the River Trent. The Trust has also battled successfully over the past four years with the Salmon & Trout Association to get new guidelines introduced by the Environment Agency which should reduce the scale and number of schemes coming forward.

According to Government figures, the maximum amount of electricity that could be generated by all of the 26,000 sites which have potential for run of river hydropower would be less than 0.5% of national electricity demand, and in practice it will be much less than this because many schemes would be unfeasible. The Angling Trust has repeatedly questioned whether it makes sense to support hydropower with public subsidy when it can do great damage to fisheries and yet generates so little power on a national scale.

Many community groups have spent considerable time and money developing plans for schemes which have turned out to be unfeasible. For example, North Devon Council wasted almost £150,000 on the development of plans for a community scheme on the East Lyn in North Devon to install a new concrete weir to generate hydropower. With one of the last healthy salmon populations in England, this beautiful river is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and the scheme was axed. Other community groups who have managed to get permission to develop have been disappointed when the financial returns promised by consultants has failed to materialise.

Mark Lloyd, chief executive of the Angling Trust said: "We are very concerned that these grants will lead to another wave of damaging and pointless hydropower developments that will damage our fisheries for generations. Our advice document is aimed at communities who are motivated to do their bit to save the planet from climate change, but who might not be aware that their schemes might actually do more harm to the environment than good. The Angling Trust wants to avoid communities' good intentions leading to unintended consequences and urges them to look at other ways of generating power than hydropower."

Angling Trust Writes to PM about Flood-Hit Angling Businesses

The Angling Trust has today written to Prime Minister David Cameron and Environment and Fisheries Minister George Eustice to seek assurances that the grants announced last week for flood-hit businesses will also be made available to angling clubs, fisheries and tackle shops which have lost significant revenue as a result of persistent high water levels.

The Angling Trust has had reports from its members that several fishing tackle shops, angling clubs and commercial fisheries in areas affected by the persistent flooding caused by this year's exceptional rainfall are facing financial ruin because fishing has been largely impossible in many areas. Angling is a major employer, particularly in rural areas, and supports nearly 40,000 jobs nationwide. Tackle shops, clubs and fisheries are all vital parts of the angling infrastructure.

The Angling Trust is working closely with the Environment Agency and officials in Defra to advance a National Angling Strategy, launched by Richard Benyon last year, which aims to increase the economic, social and environmental benefits to society from angling. This strategy relies upon tackle shops, angling clubs and fisheries staying in business to be successful.

Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive of the Angling Trust said: "Angling is an important part of the rural and national economy and a major employer. We hope that the government will recognise this contribution and that the exceptional weather conditions we have endured this year have had a significant impact on angling businesses. As soon as we have further details about the availability of grants, we will send them to our member clubs, fisheries and tackle shops."

Fishing news record

for last 6 months

fish/catcher	lb	oz	location	method	date caught	BAA News edition
Barbel						
River Avon						
Kevin Day	14	0	Middle			Feb 2014
Michael Hanley	11	9	Marlcliff	2 chunks of hair rigged , boosted meat		Nov 2013
George hands	8	8	Marlcliff			Jan 2014
River Anker						
Martin Woodroffe	13	2		Superglued halibut pellets		Jan 2014
Common Carp						
Pools						
Kevin Smith	19	6	Coppice		25/10/2013	Nov 2013
Harry Treadwell	19	0	Coppice	Hair rigged straberry boilie	27/12/2013	Feb 2014
Kevin Smith	16	0	Coppice		25/10/2013	Nov 2013
Kevin Smith	14	12	Coppice		25/10/2013	Nov 2013
Kevin Smith	15	2	Coppice		31/01/2014	Mar 2014
Kevin Smith	11	11	Coppice		31/01/2014	Mar 2014
Kevin Smith	11	6	Coppice		31/01/2014	Mar 2014
Kevin Smith	11	0	Coppice		10/01/2014	Feb 2014
Kevin Smith	10	12	Coppice		10/01/2014	Feb 2014
Leather Carp						
Canals						
Jonathan Albutt	22	2	Birmingham- Worcs Stoke	A.S baits inferno boilies in solid PVA bag		Nov 2013
Mirror Carp						
Pools						
Kevin Smith	17	1	Coppice		25/10/2013	Nov 2013
Matt Welch	17	0	Coppice		17/11/2013	Dec 2013
Matt Welch	14	7	Coppice		17/11/2013	Dec 2013
Kevin Smith	12	11	Coppice		25/10/2013	Nov 2013
Kevin Smith	11	5	Coppice		25/10/2013	Nov 2013

Chub

River Severn						
John Care	5	1	Arley		11/10/2013	Nov 2013
River Teme						
Ben Keen	5	2	Bransford	Maggot feeder	29/09/2013	Nov 2013
Ben Keen	4	8	Bransford	Maggot feeder	29/09/2013	Nov 2013
Ben Keen	4	0	Bransford	Maggot feeder	29/09/2013	Nov 2013

Grayling

River Teme						
Reg Perrins	0	6	Bransford	Maggot feeder	29/09/2013	Nov 2013

Perch

River Avon						
Tony Barnet	3	2	Barton Weir	Legered double bronze maggot		Nov 2013
Pools						
Graham Beck	2	5	Coppice	Legered meat	05/09/2013	Oct 2013

Pike

River Avon						
Lance Godfrey	19		Pershore	Legered sardine		Nov 2013
Jim Clarke	10	5		Paternostered sprat		Jan 2014

Brown Trout

River Teme						
Ben Keen	1	2	Bransford	Maggot feeder	29/09/2013	Nov 2013