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# B.A.A. NEWS

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February 2014

**The new footbridge  
has now been  
installed at  
Cotheridge**

**Midlands Fishing  
Show Ricoh Arena  
Coventry 8-9<sup>th</sup> March  
2014**

See page 16

# Fred Flint



The Association is saddened to report that it has lost one of the elder statesmen of the Executive Committee. Sixteen year veteran of the Executive Fred Flint passed away suddenly on Friday 24 January aged 85. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him and the condolences of the Association go to his bereaved family. Fred was a familiar figure on the BAA stand at the Evesham Angling Festival and our ambassador to all our tackle shop agents for whom he would deliver BAA Day Tickets.

Fred had served in many roles during his 16 years on the committee, including the Fisheries working party, the Juniors Committee, the Promotions & Events Committee and the General Purposes Committee. He did all that in addition to his work with the Army Ex. Serviceman's organisation for whom he was Welfare Officer.

Rest in Peace Fred, 'old soldiers never die'.

# BAA history



This is a nostalgic look at an event that took place 95 years ago at Upton on Severn that involved my father, a charabanc, a BAA venue and an unexpected stay over at local pubs. I wonder how many of our elder anglers of the Birmingham Anglers Association, of which I am now one, can lay claim to having a prize which goes back all those years.

The Shareholders Angling Society was based at the 'Shareholders' Pub in Park Lane Aston, where my father John James Duffell also lived at the time and like many fishing clubs they had a membership of 50 anglers and a waiting list of many more. In those early years in the City of Birmingham and the industrial West Midlands, fishing was big business and rivers were the only available venues open to them for fishing, however they never had more than four contests a year and many clubs only had one contest a year, hence that one match was known as the Annual Contest.

My father told me that it was a warm sunny day and with my grandfather at the wheel they set off for their Annual Contest to Upton on Severn in an open top charabanc. The contest took place and at the end of the match the fish were weighed in and the results announced.

I seem to recall him saying that smaller fish were measured and if thought to be undersized, returned to the water to be caught another day and the rest weighed in.

My father won the contest (weight unknown) and he was only 17 years of age.

At the end of the match they loaded up the charabanc to come home, but as they pulled off, the drive chain broke and because it was a Saturday afternoon with no shops or services open at the time, there was no one to call upon to help with the repair. For some reason the chain could not be repaired there and then, so the local people being what they are, looked after them with food as well as finding them a bed for the night in various pubs in the village while the chain was sorted out for their return home the following day. This hospitality cost the members nothing.

Years ago, when my dad was telling me this story I thought he mentioned they fished BAA waters but I was never too sure until I recently spoke to John Williams who told me that the BAA did have water down there at that particular time and there was every chance they did fish BAA venue.



The clock in the photo is what he won in 1919 and still keeps good time, which must have been quite an achievement for him and the charabanc in the photo was the one that broke down, however this photo was taken around 1925 with my dad at the wheel and my grandfather seated behind him with the pipe.

The original Shareholders Pub was pulled down and a new one stands in its place today. The pub in the background is the Lamb, can anyone shed any light on where this pub was located?

Ken Duffell.



# Blue Ball AC anniversary



The Blue Ball A.C. was first formed in 1951 by members of The Blue Ball Pub which used to be on Sedgley Road, East Tividale. Our present secretary Brian Marsh joined the club in 1955, in the 1970 the club were looking for a new secretary, Brian volunteered to do the job on a temporary basis to keep the club going. At the time the club was seven shillings and six pence in the red so the club raised the subs from £3 to £4 a year, with a membership of forty strong and a waiting list of eight.

We have a lady member Jean Jackson who joined with her husband Wally in 1957, unfortunately Wally is no longer with us. Wally holds the club match record of 42lbs 12ozs 8drms caught on the river Severn at Atcham just below the river Tern Mouth back in the mid seventies.

Jean is president of our club and we could not wish for anyone any better. Jean won the BAA Women's Championship on six occasions, and she still enjoys her fishing with us.

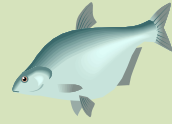
We have Brian Wellings who joined in 1958, John Dalloway 1960, his wife Josephine is our treasurer, Eddie Southall joined in the 1960's, Paul Mason joined as a junior in around 1980 and still with us. As you can see we have long standing members, the rest of the membership years go from thirty to two years service.

We do receive generous donations, thank you Jean, John, Dave, Diane.

Today's subs are £25 per-year for eight contests, six river, one pool, one canal on BAA waters. We have been affiliated to the BAA since our formation. We do not have a waiting list at the moment so new members would be welcome. If you are interested in becoming a member to a good little club, call Brian on 01384 279598.



# Fishing news



## One that got away!



Good morning,

Just a quick note on an interesting find I had this morning whilst mountain biking along the Severn Estuary where I live, which I had to photograph as gob smacked.

As you're probably aware there has been some rough weather and pretty big tides across the UK of which we experienced and the Estuary was close to breaching the defences. The photos show the 2nd Severn Crossing (from the Welsh side) in the background and one of your signs has found its way to us on the tides. Estimate it's had a 90 mile journey.

Mike Croft



## Avon Barbel



14lb 0oz barbel from the Middle Avon.

Kindest Regards,  
Kevin Day (ACIOB)

## My first carp



I caught this carp at Coppice Lake on 27.12.2013. This is the first carp I have caught and it weighed in at just over 19 lbs. I used a hair rigged strawberry boilie fished on a rod my wife bought me for my birthday in November. Thanks for help and advice from Richard, Paula and Northern Monkey.

Harry Treadwell

## Stourton Castle



With all the main rivers full of floodwater I decided to fish the Stour at Stourton Castle with a Stick Float for roach. The bait I used was bread punch, pinkies & casters. I managed to catch 4 fin perfect roach and a roach/skimmer hybrid.

Best Regards  
Craig Cope



## 24 hours at Coppice



Happy 2014 to you all.

I made a visit to Coppice on the 10/01/2014 to find the road to the car park has got quite bad with pot holes, the trees in the car park had been chopped down and a big cut back to the trees on the car park bank and the bank itself had turned into a mud pits with all this rain we've had. But I pushed on.

I had 2 commons at 10lb 12oz and 11lb and my partner in crime Colin had 1 common at 8lb 10oz.

Thanks Kev of Birmingham

# Interesting stuff

## How the Severn flows

You may have noticed that the headwaters of the River Severn flow in a north easterly direction, turning east to flow through Shrewsbury and the Ironbridge Gorge then south all the way to the estuary. It is thought that before the last ice age, the Severn headwaters continued to flow north into the River Dee from the Buildwas area, whilst what we know as the middle and lower Severn was a separate river draining the midlands. The country between Much Wenlock and Telford was an unbroken plateau that formed the watershed between the streams flowing south into the Severn System and north into the Dee System.

During the Ice Age, glaciers moved southward to just south of Bridgenorth laying down thick deposits of clay, sand and gravel. Towards the end of the Ice Age the ice front gradually retreated north and glacial lakes developed behind it. As more ice melted these lakes joined up to form one large lake, named Lake Lapworth after the person who identified it. The entire drainage of the lake was across a gap in the plateau at Ironbridge, the volume of water being considerable which quickly cut a deep valley in the soft clays and sandstone of the former watershed creating what we now know as Ironbridge Gorge. The sides of the gorge are still unstable and liable to landslides and slips. When the ice had disappeared and the lake drained the new gorge was low enough to act as a permanent river course with the result that the upper part of the Severn now flowed into its present course rather than northward into the Dee.

Due to the outflow of water from Lake Lapworth, the Middle Severn valley floor was eroded away by about 200 feet, resulting in high level benches either side of the river representing the original valley floor. Streams such as Borle and Dowle Brooks did not receive any of this outflow and ended up 'hung' above the new valley floor. This resulted in the lower sections of these brooks flowing very steeply into the main river. The fast flow of water in the lower reaches of these brooks was used as a source of power for mills in previous centuries.

## Severn Barbel

The Fishing News Record (see pages 22 and 23) lists the last six months of catches reported by our readers. What is interesting is that we have no barbel catches reported from the Severn, but those reported from the Avon appear to be getting bigger. Your views on this would be interesting. Is it because?

- The Severn has not been fished much recently due to the floods.
- More people are fishing for barbel in the Avon.
- The barbel fishing on the Severn has deteriorated.
- Just a statistical anomaly.
- The impact of two years of severe flooding on the Severn.
- Fewer people are sending in pictures of their catches to us.



# Executive update



## Uckinghall

The work to remove the large trees on the bank between the pool and river has been completed. This work was done due to concerns raised about the safety of the trees by the owners the nearby houses, the work being undertaken by contract tree surgeons.

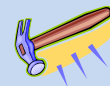
## Bailiffing

A bailiff's training course held in Worcester which had been attended by 6 Association bailiffs.

## Coventry Canal

The replacement of our Huddlesford fishery by one closer to the junction with the Trent and Mersey Canal has been completed (see January 2014 BAA News for details of new fishery).

# Fisheries report



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

Pools

Coppice Lake

Cut down trees and cleared vegetation alongside the car park. This is to make way for additional parking space. The next step is to arrange for a contractor to remove the tree stumps, level the ground and put down a lay of hard core on the new car park and track.

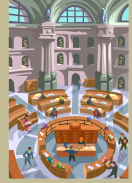
Nordley

Cut back trees around pools 1 and 2. Put steps in for top peg at pool 2 and replaced peg on opposite side which was rotten.



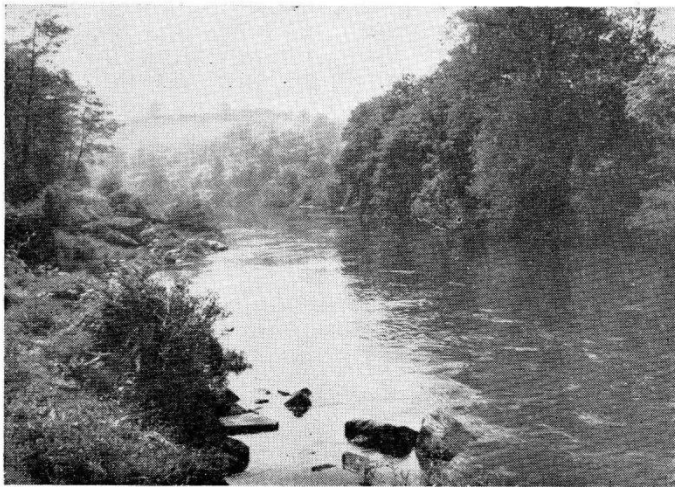


# Archive extracts



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

## TRY A COLOURED BAIT FOR THOSE SEVERN BARBEL



*This stretch of the Severn at Eardington, a mixture of shallow runs and deep holes, looks a likely place to tempt one of the Severn's elusive barbel.*

Yellow maggots is  
the bait recommended  
by —

W. J. HOWES

**W**HAT is the bait most likely to account for one of the big barbel put in the Severn a few years ago?

From my experience I would say a large bunch of yellow maggots.

It was a coloured bait of this kind that tempted my biggest barbel of last season — not from the Severn and not, alas, of specimen quality, but a stubborn fighter just the same.

I was fishing in a good depth of water — about fourteen feet — and since it was just clear of the main stream and fringed with a shallow, gravelly run, it was the kind of slow-moving eddy that might harbour the fish I sought.

At regular intervals I dropped in a few balls of groundbait, which contained a liberal supply of maggots, and by eleven o'clock on that truly ideal morning I had landed three barbel, the best around the 5-lb. mark.

There was an interval of about half-an-hour after the last bite, so

I retrieved my tackle to rebait and proceeded to fill my No. 2 hook — in my view the ideal size for barbel — with coloured maggots and settled down quietly to await developments.

Before very long there was a steady pull and I promptly tightened on to a fish which I knew, as I held him for a fleeting second before allowing him to dash off downstream, was to be my best fish of the season.

But it was not to be so easy as that. As I was putting steady pressure on him he suddenly turned and came back towards me and I had to recover line very speedily indeed. Then he halted and moved slowly and ponderously into a shallow bay where the camp sheathing ended before suddenly darting off upstream again.

This time, however, there was no holding him. He went every bit of fifty yards before he found shelter on the bottom and refused to budge despite all the pressure I could

exert.

There was obviously only one thing to do — walk along the bank, winding in as I went, and exert still more pressure from closer range.

I did just that and had the satisfaction of seeing him roll over on the surface. Then once again he hared off upstream and once again I had to give him line.

All the side strain I could muster had to be used to keep him out of a weed bed, and that accomplished I held him on a tight line, letting the rod tip absorb the shocks of his boring and rolling until the strain began to tell and I started to win back some line.

He was a fine fish that barbel — a 9½-pounder, the best I had ever caught, and a battler to the last. There are some even bigger in the Severn, and if yellow maggots do the trick for you as well, believe me you will have something to remember.

# Modest Days Have Their Charm

says

F. W. THOMAS

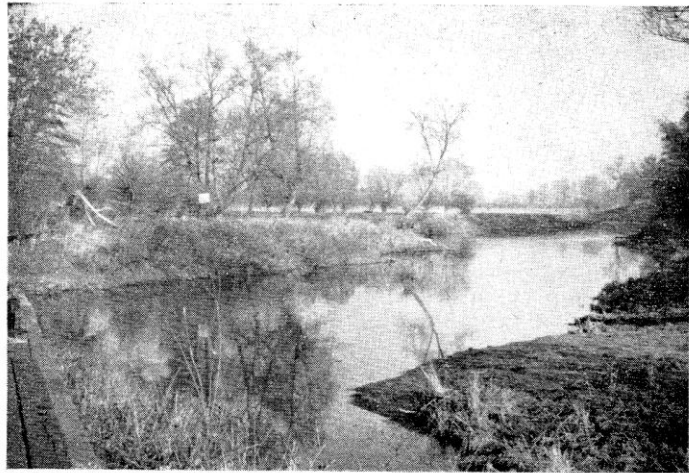
After several rather unsuccessful, though pleasant, excursions to the Upper Severn during the long, hot summer of 1959, my friends and I had decided not to make the trip again until river conditions improved.

Then, towards the end of October, the rain came in torrents, and the Severn rose rapidly; it was bank high at Bewdley and newspapers and radio told of floods in the upper reaches. We had arranged, provisionally, to go on 31st October, and we decided to carry on in the hope that the river would have fined down.

Trout being out of season, it seemed natural that we should concentrate our efforts on grayling, and our first impression was that prospects were good. It was rather cold and windy but the flood water had run off and the river looked in good order.

We separated, Geoff. going downstream while Reg and I stayed put and fished close together. During the first hour I caught one very small dace, and Reg had several sizeable grayling. There was nothing unusual in that — he normally catches far more than I do.

However, I started to make my way downstream, fishing here and there without getting a bite, until I eventually came to a backwater which on investigation proved to be about five feet deep — a likely looking spot, particularly after a flood. After missing one bite I concentrated more and struck correctly at the one which followed a



*"The flood water had run off and the river looked in good order."*

few moments later. It was apparent that I was into a 'big fellow' and it was equally apparent that the only way to land him was to play him in the middle of the backwater away from the overhanging bushes and weeds around the edges.

In a few seconds he was exposed momentarily to view near the surface and I could see that, as I had suspected, he was a chub. A few more seconds and he was going hell for leather towards the bank under my feet despite my vain efforts to stop him with a pushing motion on the rod, which bent nearly double.

Keeping the strain on, I carried my rod to the other side of the backwater and tried to dislodge him from that angle. But a violent commotion took place under the surface, a broken cast and float flew back into my face, and a cloud of red mud marked the surface where the chub had gained his freedom.

Now was the time, I thought, for a short rest. So making myself comfortable alongside a fallen tree trunk in a position sheltered from the wind, I had a drink from my flask and ate some cheese sandwiches, throwing occasional bits of bread to a robin which had been watching my activities. A quiet smoke, and I was ready to go in search of other chub and more

accessible swims.

Much as I like grayling and trout fishing I frequently ignore them and fish for chub — if the chub seem likely to co-operate. Consequently, I tried three or four promising looking swims using cheese as bait — both float fishing and ledgering — without any success at all. It was only when I changed to float fishing with maggots that I began to have sport. Then, in quick succession, I caught chub of 1½-lb., 2-lb. and 1-lb. On weighing the largest one, I pondered over the one that got away previously and its probable weight — certainly a lot more than 2-lb.

The afternoon passed pleasantly and I made my way upstream to find my companions. They too had been having good sport, mostly with grayling and a few dace. Geoff. said he had had some frightening moments with a Hereford bull which was with a herd of cattle in a meadow I had walked across and back twice without even seeing it. So perhaps there is something in the theory that bulls ignore you if you ignore them.

An outstanding day? Perhaps not when compared with the catches achieved by other anglers. But even a modest day can be very satisfying when hopeless conditions have kept you away from the river for weeks.





# BEWARE THAT SMALL HOOK FALLACY

says

FRED TAYLOR

*This fine barbel took a No. 2 hook without any fuss. In fact it is doubtful if a smaller hook would have held it.*

SOME time ago when writing about single hooks for pike fishing I suggested that even a No. 2 hook was not big enough for use with a herring bait. I was, and perhaps still am, of the opinion that a couple of trebles were the best hooks to use with a big dead bait. Since then, however, I have had a letter from a friend, Clive Gammon, who tells me that he has just had his first success with a herring bait in fresh water. Clive admits that at first he was inclined to regard the dead bait method as a dreary type of fishing, but the 18-pounder he had just caught 'converted' him.

The capture of Clive's fish, however, is purely incidental. What is interesting is his method of hooking. He used a No. 5/0 sea (or salmon) hook and simply coaxed the bait on to it with a stitching action until only the barb was showing. He apparently had no trouble with the landing and unhooking of his pike and I find myself thinking seriously along the same lines as he does.

Looking into it a little more deeply, and comparing mouths and hook sizes, it seems strange that we do not use single hooks for pike more often. I don't know much about sea hooks or sea fish but I do know that some of the hooks sea fishermen use for fish with mouths smaller than that of a pike are quite huge. When you look at a pike's mouth even a set of No. 4 trebles is very small in comparison. It is possible that a very large single would do the job more efficiently. A very powerful rod is needed to cast a herring weighing nearly a pound, and I should think that a rod capable of casting such a weight would be capable of driving home the largest of singles. And think how much easier it would be to remove.

But we are very conservative about hook sizes and nearly always tend to use hooks which are too small for all of our fishing. The one exception, perhaps, is carp fishing. No. 2's, seem to be the regular choice even if the carp expected are only three- or four-pounders. Not

that a No. 2 is too large for a 4-lb. carp; it could swallow one three times as big! It's not so long ago that a No. 8 was considered large enough for all carp fishing, but nowadays it is agreed that something much larger is required.

But if a No. 2 is not too big for a 4-lb. carp, why should it be considered too large for a chub or barbel? I have caught dozens of chub on a No. 2 hook and have never found them too big unless of course a small bait was required.

I think that we do not pay enough attention to the obvious connection between hook size and bait size. Of course, if a small bait is required a small hook is essential, but I can see no point in threading a No. 10 hook into a lobworm when a No. 4 is just as easily concealed and more likely to be driven home.

The same applies to roach fishing. One of the finest Ouse roach fishermen I ever knew is an old gentleman now well over 80 years of age. He was a pole expert and his hook size (on which he was emphatic) was a No. 9 crystal. I



was inclined to laugh at him ten years ago, thinking that a No. 14 was big enough for any roach. But when I saw him catching pound roach on pieces of paste almost as big as a cherry, I had second thoughts. What use would a No. 14 hook be in a bait so large?

It is generally accepted that one of the best baits for a big chub or barbel is a lump of cheese paste, and I always consider that a big lump is better than a small one except under certain conditions. These conditions include low, clear water, and very cold water, but are not encountered all that often. Nowadays I find that many experienced match anglers tend to try out big baits on ledger tackle when they go 'pleasure fishing.' But although they are prepared to try big baits, in the hope of connecting with a big fish, they all appear very reluctant to use correspondingly large hooks. I have seen them bury No. 14 hooks in a lump of cheese as big, if not bigger than, a walnut. Now a walnut of cheese is a good barbel bait. It is a good chub bait and it is also a good bream bait, but it just can't be fished properly on a No. 14 hook. And when these match men do use a No. 14 let me assure you they are stretching it as far as they dare! None of them has a hook in his tackle box larger than a 14, and this they use with apparent great reluctance. I often wonder why.

It seems that my idea of small hooks and small baits differs from that of many other anglers. After using a No. 2 hook for crayfish, or lobworm baits for a few weeks, a No. 10 appears to me to be almost ridiculously small. A  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch crust cube fished on a No. 10 hook hardly looks capable of catching a chub, it seems so tiny. Yet compared with a match angler's single maggot on a No. 18 it is almost indecently large.

I had a letter recently from a North country angler who wanted to know how to ledger with crust in fast water. He said that he could not keep the bait on the hook even in still water let alone in a fast



*Look at the mouth of this 5½ lb. chub. Could it not cope comfortably with a No. 2 hook?*

stream. After more correspondence I learned that he was trying to fish his  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch crust cube on a No. 18 hook and of course the hook was pulling out as soon as the bread-crust became soaked. As he so rightly said, it was impossible to keep the bait on the hook for more than a few seconds at a time. Apparently it never occurred to him that his  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch crust could still be fished on a No. 7 or 10 hook.

By saying all this I am not suggesting that big hooks or even big baits are necessary to catch big fish, because obviously this is not true. What I do suggest, however, is that where a big bait is considered necessary or desirable it is advisable to use a big hook rather than a small one. Likewise, where a big hook is necessary because of prevailing conditions don't be afraid to use it, nor to cover it with a big

bait. Under certain conditions big baits may not produce as many bites from big fish as smaller baits, but when they come along there is a fair chance of the fish being landed.

I had a perfect example of this type of thing last Autumn when I was barbel fishing in a small and very snaggy water. I hoped for a four or five-pounder, but as I was assembling my tackle—an Avon type rod and 4-lb. line—I began to think that perhaps it would be better to use a line of 8 or 9-lb. because I knew there were double figure barbel in the water. After due consideration I decided to go the whole way and ended up by using a 9-lb. line, a Mark 4 carp rod and a No. 2 eyed hook tied direct. I only had one bite but it

*(Continued on page 24)*

was from a barbel of over 11-lbs. which ended up on the bank. I honestly do not think I would have stood an earthly chance with a small hook and a finer line. Of course the big hook was completely invisible in my big bait — half a beef sausage. This was probably an extreme case of course and many will still consider that my tackle was unreasonably strong and my hook unnecessarily large. But if a No. 2 hook is not too large for a double figure carp in a big lake, why should it be too large for a double figure barbel in a snaggy little river?

Of course we can lay down no hard and fast rules about hook sizes but I would try to sum it all up by saying that we should perhaps use the largest that conditions will allow. Hook size will always be governed by the size of the mouth of the fish in question. There is reasonableness in all things, however, and although I can name conditions when I could guarantee to catch a dace on a No. 4, this does not mean that I advise it. I think it is a question of considering all the factors involved and then trying to strike a balance of hook size, tackle strength and bait size to suit prevailing conditions. And of course conditions are seldom the same two weeks running.

# Midlands Fishing Show

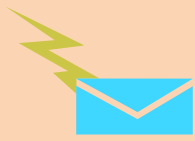
The BAA are pleased to be attending this years Midland Angling Show at the Ricoh Arena, Coventry on the weekend of 8th and 9th March 2014. Our Exhibition trailer will be there and we welcome old, current and new members to call in for a friendly chat. Whilst you are there why not try and win a bottle of Jack Daniel's on our 'Booze Tombola'.

Entry to the show is Free for BAA members on production of your BAA membership card and matching photo ID in the same name. Please note that without the two together you will not gain free entry to the show (£5 entry fee). Car parking is free and the show runs between 9am-4pm on the Saturday and 9am-3pm on the Sunday.

We look forward to meeting you at the show.

For more show info' Ctrl+click on the following hyperlink;

<http://www.fishricoh.com/show/>



# Readers' letters



If you have any items, thoughts, issues you want to air in the BAA news, please email it to [baajn@btinternet.com](mailto:baajn@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 John,

On the subject of the presence of bailiffs, do you have a 'hotline' number for members to call if they see anything suspicious? My concern is in regards to our leisurely fishing hours in relation to the formal office hours that you have in BAA office. If something is seen at the weekend who do we contact? EA? Or am I missing something? I have taken the opportunity to obtain a wifey membership pass for this year to enable her ladyship to attend occasionally and 'supervise' operations I don't know if this was a good introduction or a bad one yet!

Happy new year to you all

Andy Reeves

Hi Andy,

*Re' your enquiry, we do not have a 'hot line' as such, simply because even if we did have such a number we do not have the resources to respond to every incident which may be reported. Even the Police and the Environment Agency combined are stretched to respond to calls from their national emergency numbers, so we have no chance. I guess the real advice to give you is; it depends on the type of incident which you witness. If it is a matter of fish in distress, suspected pollution, suspicion of illegal activity etc then your first call should be to either the police or to the EA. If it is a routine matter or something which, whilst not being an emergency, you feel that we should be notified of, then call the BAA office. You will know that our office hours are limited, however when the phone is not manned there is a message which gives an alternative, mobile telephone number (07976 886558) where you should be able to speak to someone, or at least leave a message. Cheers.*

*John Williams  
General Secretary  
Birmingham Anglers Association Ltd.*



# Angling Trust updates

## Severn Seal



The Angling Trust has confirmed that it intends to continue seeking a humane relocation of 'Keith' - the seal (who is actually a female) stuck in the River Severn freshwater system for nearly two years.

The Angling Trust successfully applied for a licence from Natural England to rescue the seal during the close season (1 September – 31 December 2013) but this was prevented by extensive flooding. That protective period, however, has now ended. No further licence is required for the control or capture of grey seals until 1 September 2014.

Whilst the Angling Trust has no control over others, it remains entirely committed to working with the British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR) animal rescue charity to safely rescue and remove the mammal from the Severn – both to ensure that the seal comes to no harm and protect vulnerable and fragile freshwater fish stocks. These species include the endangered shad and eel, and threatened Atlantic salmon. Moreover, this female seal will not find a mate unless returned to the ocean.

Last year's agreement between the Angling Trust and BDMLR has the backing of the Environment Agency – which fully supported the Trust's original licence application to prevent further damage to local fish stocks.

**Dafydd Evans, Area Manager for the Environment Agency commented:** "We recognise the concern by anglers of the impact on specimen fish and that fishery owners can take action to protect their fishery. We will work closely with the angling community to investigate practical solutions to deter predation by seals."

**Alan Knight OBE, Chairman of the British Divers Marine Life Rescue said:** "The Angling Trust and local angling clubs have been committed from the start to finding a solution which avoided any harm coming to the seal but minimised damage to fish and birdlife. Although in an ideal world we would like to leave Keith where she is we do have serious concerns for the seal's safety. We therefore remain committed to working with the Angling Trust to gently and safely remove Keith from harm's way and return her to the sea."

**Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive of the Angling Trust said:** *"Local anglers remain rightly concerned about the impact of the seal on vulnerable fish stocks. The situation has not been helped by members of the public feeding the seal as if it was a pet rather than a wild mammal with a natural fear of humans. We are particularly concerned that the seal has been seen preying on highly protected fish species in the River Teme – a Site of Special Scientific Interest noted for its eel, salmon, shad, lamprey and barbel populations. These fish have specific protection under the law for very good reason. The right thing to do, therefore, for the river, the fish and the seal is for all lovers of wildlife to work together and ensure this animal is safely rescued – not harmed – relocated to its natural habitat and the fragile Severn freshwater system preserved for future generations."*

#### **More information...**

Conservation of Seal Act 1970 and close season:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1970/30/section/2>

The Angling Trust emphasises that: -

- The intention is to safely rescue and relocate the seal in order to protect the fragile aquatic freshwater ecosystem.
- Eels, Allis and Twaite Shad are protected species in danger of extinction – the seal is undoubtedly negatively impacting upon this precarious situation.
- It is important to emphasise that Severn coarse anglers do not kill their catch but almost exclusively practise catch and release. Moreover, many anglers volunteer to help and donate funds towards habitat restoration projects on the Severn catchment's various rivers.
- The Severn Rivers Trust, a charity committed to the preservation and improvement of the Severn catchment, has ongoing projects to understand and reverse the decline of Severn roach and barbel stocks. These fragile populations are being constantly and further undermined by the seal's continued presence.
- Of particular concern is that the seal enters and feeds in the River Teme – a Site of Special Scientific Interest on the grounds of its eel, salmon, shad, lamprey and barbel populations. The Teme barbel, in fact, are also in decline – so the seal's presence there whilst this species was spawning in June 2013 was potentially catastrophic.
- The Environment Agency and Natural England both acknowledge the damage the seal is doing to the river's local fisheries and support the Trust's efforts to coordinate the animal's safe relocation.
- The Angling Trust is not 'chasing', 'hunting' or 'capturing' the seal – far from it. More accurately we are working closely with the experts of the British Marine Divers Life Rescue to safely rescue this lost animal and return it to the sea – to prevent it coming to any harm.

## **Child abuse case highlights need for clubs to use licensed coaches**

Following the appalling news this week of the conviction of 45 year Paul Stead, who used his position as head of the junior section of a Leeds fishing club to commit 23 sex offences against 7 victims dating back to the 1990s, the Angling Trust has called upon all angling clubs and organisations working with young people and vulnerable adults to ensure that all their officers involved in running activities are properly accredited and police checked.

Stead, who has now been jailed for 11 years, was operating as an unlicensed angling coach and the Angling Trust believes that this dreadful case has further reinforced the need for all coaches to be licensed.

The Angling Trust, as the National Governing Body for angling, strives to ensure that all young anglers are able to participate in the sport in a safe and friendly environment. The Trust works with organisations such as the NSPCC, Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) and Sport England to implement procedures to encourage clubs, fisheries and other organisations to appoint only those who have been appropriately trained and checked to work with young people and vulnerable adults.

The Angling Trust runs a coach licensing scheme which ensures that all licensed coaches hold an appropriate 1st4Sport coaching qualification, have undergone recognised and relevant Safeguarding and Protecting Children training, recognised First Aid Training and have also been DBS (formerly CRB) checked. Any concerns raised about a coach before and during their time as a licensed coach are investigated with the support of the aforementioned agencies and where appropriate the police and children's services.

If coaches are not licensed, their suitability to work in environments with young people and vulnerable adults cannot be assessed. The Angling Trust urges all angling coaches to register for a Coach Licence and all clubs, schools and organisations using angling coaches to make it a requirement that they are licensed with the Angling Trust.

The Angling Trust Coach Licence has recently undergone a review and will be re-launching very soon. Prices will start from as little as £10 per year for members of the Angling Trust to get a licence to coach as a volunteer.

Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive of the Angling Trust said: *"This case is absolutely horrific and our thoughts are with the young people who were the victims of this terrible abuse, and their families. Thankfully this is a very rare case in the angling community, but we must all do everything we can to try and stop anything like this happening in the future. The best way to achieve this is for all the organisations involved in angling to support the coach licence system. Whilst we actively encourage friends and families to take youngsters fishing, the bar has to be set high for angling clubs operating junior sections. Before parents entrust their children to people they don't know particularly well they need to be confident that they will be coached by well-trained people who have had their criminal record checked."*

## **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 River 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."

# Fishing news record

## for last 6 months

fish/catcher	lb	oz	location	method	date caught	BAA News edition
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### 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
<b>River Anker</b>						
Martin Woodroffe	13	2		Superglued halibut pellets		Jan 2014

### Bream

#### Pools

Kevin Smith	3	5	Coppice		15/08/2013	Sept 2013
Kevin Smith	3	3	Coppice		15/08/2013	Sept 2013

### 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	7	Coppice		09/08/2013	Sept 2013
Kevin Smith	16	0	Coppice		25/10/2013	Nov 2013
Kevin Smith	15	10	Coppice		09/08/2013	Sept 2013
Kevin Smith	14	12	Coppice		25/10/2013	Nov 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
Kevin Smith	12	15	Coppice		01/08/2013	Sept 2013
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
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### Mirror Carp

#### Pools

Kevin Smith	17	1	Coppice		25/10/2013	Nov 2013
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Matt Welch	17	0	Coppice	17/11/2013	Dec 2013
Matt Welch	14	7	Coppice	17/11/2013	Dec 2013
Kevin Smith	14	4	Coppice	01/08/2013	Sept 2013
Kevin Smith	12	11	Coppice	25/10/2013	Nov 2013
Kevin Smith	11	5	Coppice	25/10/2013	Nov 2013

## Chub

<b>River Avon</b>					
Adam King	6	10	Pershore	Double caster 16 hook	20/06/2013 Sept 2013
<b>River Severn</b>					
John Care	5	1	Arley		11/10/2013 Nov 2013
<b>River Teme</b>					
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

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

## Perch

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

## Pike

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

## Tench

<b>River Avon</b>					
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

## Brown Trout

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