Est. 1883

B.A.A.NEWS

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

June 2012

Coppice Lake closed

You may have seen on the BAA website that the Association has taken the decision to temporarily close Coppice Lake Fishery.

A visiting angler noticed a number of dead fish on the Lake and reported it to BAA HQ. As a result of the report the Superintendent Bailiff visited Coppice Lake. It was initially suspected that the fish deaths were due to low oxygen levels and two pumps were moved to Coppice to spray water onto the lake surface to try and re-oxygenate it.

Over the following days many more fish were lost, mainly silver fish, bream and carp of all sizes. A few dead perch and eels were also seen. The dead fish have been removed from the water and buried.

The Environment Agency was informed and visited Coppice to measure and confirm low oxygen levels and high water temperature and to take water samples to test for any other causes of the fish deaths.

The Lake will remain closed for the immediate future. Please check the BAA website regularly for updates.

Bridgnorth Tackle closed

Bridgnorth Tackle which has for many years supplied visiting anglers with BAA day tickets is no longer trading. Day tickets are available from Middle Severn Angling, which is located just the other side of the river bridge from where Bridgnorth Tackle was located.

Fishing news

Fish of the Month – perfect carp

Hi,

I have included photos of two of the bigger residents from Coppice Lake which I caught in a short 4 hour session on Wednesday 9th of May after work. I had 5 Carp in total including Big Scale at 29lb 11oz and a lovely common carp of 22lb 5oz as well as three other commons around the 12 - 12lb mark which I did not weigh.

The fish came from the shallow end of the lake with the big girl falling to a Zig Rigged pop-up and the common to a bottom fished boilie. I would also like to say thanks to a fellow BAA member called Shaun who took time out from his own fishing to help me weigh both the fish and who took some superb photos for me on the day.

I have also included a photo of a large ghost carp that I caught from the Staffs & Worcs Canal two years ago. It weighed 24lb 8oz and was caught on a bottom fished boilie and was weighed and witnessed by a fellow BAA member called Chris Owen. I thought I would send it in so you know that some of your waters contain some very unknown and very special fish in them.

I have now caught 20lb+ Carp from Mythe, Uckinghall, Stubbs Pool, Coppice and the Staffs & Worcs Canal and the BAA ticket is the first I re-new every year.

I can feel a few trips to Nordley coming on in the near future, who knows, I may get lucky again.....

Many thanks,

John (Moggy) Morgan

Best fish so far!

Hi

Just thought I could send this picture in for the monthly newsletter.

I took a trip down to Coppice Lake on the Sunday 13th May and had a fantastic day! We caught loads of skimmer bream, roach and 1 perch, but the highlight of the day was definitely this 12lb common carp! This was caught on maggots and on 4lb line with a size 16 hook! This is the biggest fish I have ever caught and it made my day!

Thanks BAA!

Matthew Roberts (Age 13)

Mythe bream

Hi Colin

I met you on the banks of the Avon back in February whilst I was pike fishing, you were with your grand daughter bailiffing for the day.

I didn't manage any predators over those 2 days; however I managed 6 bream from Mythe last week, biggest being 6lb, it was caught on double sweetcorn with open end feeder. I know it's not massive but it was a nice fish considering the conditions, the lake rose a foot within a few hours. If you can add this to your monthly news report would be great – and I look forward to seeing you on the bank soon.

Regards

Darren Davies

Kev & Son's fishing trip

Hi,

Kev of Birmingham here again with an update of how the two day fishing trip me and my son Liam went on over the weekend. Got to Nordley Pool 1 at 5:30am on Saturday 2nd June. Had 2 carp at 7lb each and my son Liam had a roach.

We left Nordley at about 3pm and went to Uckinghall for my son's first night fish on the BAA. We had a great time apart from the rain but that's life. No big fish for my son but not letting the side down I hooked into a 17lb carp at 8:30am on the Sunday morning, had no fish for the rest of the day.

Thanks Kev of Birmingham and Son

Charlie 1 – Dad 0

A good afternoon was had by young Charlie and me at Uckinghall Pool on Jubilee bank holiday weekend. It was his first ever fishing trip, and even though it was rainy and a bit chilly, we soldiered on and fed about 2 pints of maggots, first fishing on the waggler, but to no avail, then changed to feeder. There was not much happening, and it appeared the fish were not feeding but a couple of hours into our damp session the rod pulled round, and my lad thought all his Christmases had come at once with his first ever fish, a reasonably sized bream, which I have enclosed a couple of pictures of. What a nice fish to start his fishing adventure with. It was Son 1, Dad Nil, but he's well hooked and said he would love to go again.

(Ignore the dates on the pictures; I had just changed the camera batteries)

Many Thanks,

R.Bearcroft

Fishing news record

for last 12 months

fish/catcher	lb	oz	location	method	edition
Barbel					
			River Severn		
Stephen Mayo	14	7	Mid Severn	10m DD ellipse pellet, hair rig 12 hook, hemp & pellet groundbait.	July 2011
Steve Swain	13	5	Mid Severn	Pellet and feeder	April 2012
Steve Swain	12		Mid Severn	Halibut pellet hook bait on size 7 hook, pellet & hemp feeder	April 2012
Steve Swain	11		Mid Severn	Halibut pellet hook bait on size 7 hook, pellet & hemp feeder	April 2012
Brian Newstead	10	14	Holt Fleet	Single 14mm halibut pellet	May 2012
Lee Wilkes	10	10	Arley	SBS Baits Frankfurter hooker.	July 2011
Reece Wilkes	9	7	Arley		Oct 2011
Dave Mantle	9	4	Highley		Nov 2011
Phil Milnethorpe	9		Stanley Waters		Nov 2011
			River Avon		
Chris Blunt	15	4	Fladbury	Double 11mm pellet	April 2012
Chris Blunt	14	1	Fladbury	Double 11mm pellet	April 2012
Big John	14		Fladbury	2 x 8mm hair rigged halibut pellets on 12 hook with boilies & pellets in PVA bag on hook.	Nov 2011
Steve Hewitt	12	4	Wasperton		July 2011
Richard Edwards	10	4	Fladbury		Nov 2011
Richard Edwards	10	3	Fladbury		Nov 2011
Steve Welland	10		Wasperton	Meat	April 2012
Peter Niblett	9		Nafford	Hair rigged pellet.	Oct 2011
Chris Blunt	8	12	Fladbury	Pellet	April 2012
Tim Gilson	6	8	Nafford		Jan 2012
Dave Holland	6		Fladbury		Jan 2012
David Johnson	5	1	Fladbury	12m bloodworm boilie, barbel bomb & hemp groundbait	Mar 2012
			River Teme		
Barry Hope	13		Broadwas		Oct 2011
John Morgan	10	5	Stanford Bridge		April 2012

Kevin Wilson	8	8	Stanford Bridge		Nov 2011

Bream

River Severn

Graham Cole	8	13	Birds Meadow		Nov 2011
Colin Townsend	8	8	Severn Stoke	8m halibut pellet hair rig on 10 hook. 2m halibut pellet & brown crumb feeder.	Aug 2011
Pete Jones	7	8	Birds Meadow	Magic Black ground bait feeder, small worm and red maggot on hook.	Dec 2011

River Avon

David Johnson	7	5	Fladbury	Double 6mm elipse pellet.	Dec 2011
Oli Johnson	6		Fladbury	Double 6mm elipse pellet.	Dec 2011

Pools

Darren Davies	6		Mythe Pool	Double sweetcorn with open end feeder	June 2012
Shawn Townsend	5	8	Stubbs Pool	Mainline Cell boilies.	Dec 2011
Kevin Smith	5		Coppice		May 2012
Kevin Smith	4	8	Coppice		May 2012
Kevin Smith	4		Coppice		May 2012

Common Carp

Pools

Stan Kovachev	34	2	Coppice		July 2011
John Morgan	22	5	Coppice	Bottom fished boilie	June 2012
Kevin Smith	21		Coppice		Oct 2011
Jack Parkes	20	2	Coppice		April 2012
Kevin Smith	20		Coppice		May 2012
Kevin Smith	17		Coppice		July 2011
Kevin Smith	17		Uckinghall		June 2012

Canals

Will Peace	18		Worcester Canal, Alvechurch		Sep 2011

Ghost Carp

Canals

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

Leather Carp

Canals

Steve Ridd	13	5	Trent & Mersey Canal, Fradley	Foul hooked when plugging for predators	Feb 2012

Mirror Carp

Pools

Brendon Almquest	31		Coppice		Nov 2011
Michael Cross	31		Coppice	Single boilie	April 2012
John Morgan	29	11	Coppice	Zig rigged pop-up	June 2012
Greeny	24		Coppice		Oct 2011
Kevin Smith	20		Coppice	Boilie	April 2012
Kevin Smith	17		Coppice		May 2012

Chub

River Avon

Chris Blunt	4	12	Fladbury	bread	April 2012
Tim Gilson	3	10	Nafford	Luncheon meat.	Jan 2012

Grayling

River Teme

Tim Gilson	1	0	Lindridge	Ledgered maggot	April 2012

Perch

Pools

Tim Gilson	2	9	Coppice	Float fished maggot.	Jan 2012

Pike

River Avon

Jonathan Harcourt	18	7	Fladbury	Wobbled smelt.	Oct 2011
Neil Walker	16	7	Fladbury	Paternostered sardine.	Feb 2012
Neil Walker	13	9	Fladbury	Paternostered sardine.	Dec 2011
Tom George	13	8	Fladbury	Lamprey dead bait.	Dec 2011

Tench

Pools

Cliff Townsend	6	4	Mythe Pool	Red maggot block end feeder.	Nov 2011
Tim Gilson	4	3	Apperley		Oct 2011

Zander

River Avon

Rob Hawkswood	8	8	Pensham	Ledgered mackerel.	Jan 2012

Nature views

Where is the Balsam?

At the end of May/early June the Fisheries team have been cutting back the vegetation around the pegs at Eardington Brook, the Danery, Knowle Sands and Blackstone on the Severn. It was noticed that there was very little if any Himalayan Balsam growing. Normally by this time of the year it would be well on the way to covering the banks. Native plants such as Comfrey were growing well.

On our waters on the Stour Himalayan Balsam is there as usual.

The domestic Busy Lizzy plant which belongs to the same family as Himalayan Balsam has been badly affected in recent years by a virus infection. Has this virus started to kill off the Himalayan Balsam, or is it just a bit late this year due to the cool weather?

Let us know if you think the Balsam is in retreat, especially on the Severn and Teme, where it has been very much in evidence in recent years?

Archive extracts

Midland Angler

Copied below are two extracts from the June 1957 edition of the Midland Angler, the forerunner to the BAA News.

The Rivers Still Need Rain — In Plenty

With the new coarse fishing season only a week or so away the Severn and its tributaries badly need rain—and plenty of it—if they are to be in good condition for "the off."

For weeks now they have been well below summer level and what little rain we have had has been soaked up by the parched ground. Nevertheless, eels have been well on the move and some really big "wrigglers" have been taken.

1 Cwt. of Twaite

The brightest spot in the whole watershed has been Tewkesbury where Twaite Shad have been running up the river in record numbers. One angler estimated his catch at over 1 cwt.

The fact that most of the fish were caught on a spinner caused a great deal of argument and confusion, particularly among trout fishers, who are not allowed to spin for their sport until June 16th. But the new bye-law distinctly prohibits spinning for *trout* only. Twaite Shad are not protected in any way and spinning for them is therefore quite legal.

"All-England" Reminder

This is probably an opportune time to remind competitors in this year's National Championship of two opportunities they have of fishing open matches in this year's actual contest water.

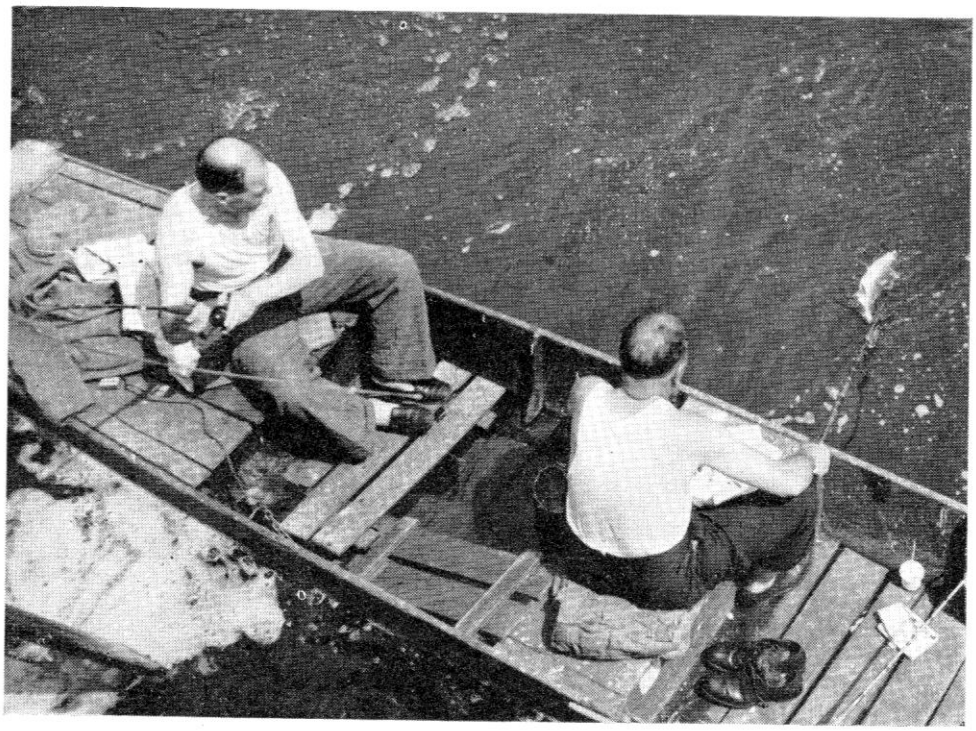
The first, on July 28th, will be in the Bridgnorth—Hampton Loade area, and the second will be staged at Bewdley on August 4th.

Tickets are already available at 5/- from E. R. Russell, 97 Franche Road, Kidderminster.

More Pitches

Visitors to the Teme in the Lindridge area and the Severn at Stourport, Ribbesford and other places will have a pleasant surprise when they start the new season.

For the past three months teams of B.A.A. volunteers have been hard at work felling and clearing the banks. The result will be more pitches—and more comfort.



Just look at the bend in that rod as a lusty Thames barbel is brought safely to the net. This year it may be the Severn's turn to provide such exciting sport.

Ledgering Is The Only Way With Barbel

. . . . says WILLIAM J. HOWES

DURING the past few seasons there has been a marked increase in the number of anglers who specialise in barbel fishing. More and more of us have learnt to appreciate the thrilling sport the barbel can provide as it bores and plunges and stubbornly resists every effort to draw it to the net.

But angling for barbel, like angling for carp, can be a disappointing business; even the best of experts fishing a water teeming with this unpredictable species can all too often experience a blank day. Many of those disappointments are unavoidable; when the fish are "off" nothing will induce them to feed. In many cases, however, lack of success is due to the fact that many newcomers to the game do not adopt the right technique; they use tackle and methods which are both unsuitable.

As a case in point, I might mention a recent visit to a well-known barbel water where I met an angler who had been fishing for barbel for three days. Considering the Spanish Reed match rod and the tiny 18 hook baited with a single maggot he was using, it was probably fortunate that he had still to hook his first fish!

The first point newcomers to barbel fishing must consider is that a strong rod with plenty of action is absolutely essential. It should be at least 11ft. in length in order to ensure a firm strike and adequate control over the fish once it is hooked. Secondly, and equally important, there is only one style of fishing that consistently produces results—ledgering. It would be safe to say that more barbel, which are inveterate bottom feeders, are caught by this method than all the other styles put together.

The strength of line depends to some extent upon personal choice, the type of rod used, and the water to be fished. I normally use an old type "Ambidex" fixed-spool with a 4 lb. nylon line, but in waters where the barbel run to a good weight or snags are likely to be encountered, something stronger is advisable.

I remember visiting the Hampshire Avon and losing four good fish because I was unable to stop them dashing into a nearby bed of weeds. The fish were lying in a fast run of water between long trusses of tough grass-like weed, and although pressure was applied immediately the fish was hooked there was sufficient action in the rod and stretch in the line to

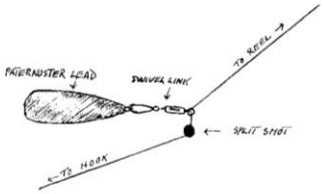
enable those barbel to reach safety. Once in the weeds they managed as usual to free the hook and leave me hopelessly snagged.

However, I did manage to land six fish by hurrying down the river as soon as I felt a fish "on" and applying maximum pressure as directly downstream as possible. This manœuvre brought the fish below the weed bed and into a clear run where they could be played in safety.

The amount of lead to be used depends entirely upon the type of swim to be fished and whether the bait is intended to remain stationary or to roll along the bottom. Some anglers are extremely cautious and reduce the weight of lead used to the absolute minimum, fearing that the barbel will object to any resistance felt when it picks up the bait. My experiences do not support them, for I have found that the amount of lead makes little difference to a taking barbel provided the ledger is free-running.

Fig. 1

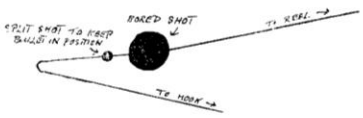
The ideal method. A pear-shaped paternoster lead and link swivel ensure a free-running line and a speedy change-over of leads.



One of the best methods of ensuring this is to use a pear-shaped paternoster lead in conjunction with a link swivel, as shown in Fig. 1. The line passes through the thin wire loop of the swivel, thus ensuring that it runs quite freely. Compare this arrangement with Fig. 2, which shows the normal ball-ledger set-up, and it is obvious that the weight is much less likely to be felt if a paternoster lead and swivel is used. An added advantage is the fact that the swivel link permits the weight of the lead to be increased or decreased according to the prevailing conditions.

Fig. 2

Not so good. A rather clumsy set up more likely to cause line drag.



The arrangement shown in Fig. 3 I do not recommend because it does not allow the line to run as freely as the other two methods and, in addition, there is much risk of a breakage due to the "coffin" becoming wedged between stones or any other snags that abound in rivers—especially in the best barbel swims!

Most barbel anglers pin their faith to ready-whipped hooks to nylon, but there seems to be a growing tendency towards eyed or spade-end hooks tied direct to the line. One advantage of the latter is that it reduces the number of knots to one only. A useful tip if you prefer a "tie-on" is to attach it the night before fishing. It will save precious time early next morning and it also makes threading the line a much easier process.

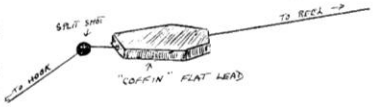
As for bait—well, almost anything can take a barbel. Nevertheless, lobworms, maggots, cheese and bread in its various forms are the most popular. Groundbait is, of course, absolutely essential. A good method is to use a stiff mixture of bread and bran moulded into the shape of a cup, the inside being filled with pieces of hook bait and the top closed over before being cast in.

A rod rest can be used, but when the barbel are "on" it is as well to hold the rod in the hand in readiness for bites which at times can be nothing more than sharp dace-like "touches." In the main, however, a barbel takes the bait right into his mouth as it moves along the bottom rooting out and sucking in anything resembling food, in which case the rod bends quickly towards the water.

When this happens and the hook is well and truly struck home into a good fish, the odds are that the novice barbel fisher will be convinced that he has snagged the bottom. Then, irresistibly, the fish will start to draw off line and begin to roll, bore and plunge and try all manner of antics to free itself from the hook. It will fight like a demon to the very last gasp and provide you with a battle you will never forget—a battle which is certain to ensure that you, too, will in future concentrate all the attention you can on this game and gallant fish.

Fig. 3

Avoid this at all cost. The 'coffin' lead is certain to find all the snags that are going.



WHERE TO FIND THEM

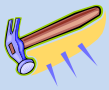
The 509 barbel transferred to the Severn from the Kennet last September were placed in the river in equal quantities at the following points:

Bewdley, Arley, Hampton Loade, Bridgnorth, Jackfield, Ironbridge, Atcham and Underdale.

The first fish caught was reported from Alveley Bridge, Highley, a point 1½ miles downstream from Hampton Loade ferry, the nearest restocking point—an indication of the distance the fish are likely to travel before choosing their new home.

The Severn River Board is anxious to obtain details of any fish taken during the coming season in order that some indication can be obtained of the places where other fish have settled down satisfactorily.

Fisheries report



The cut-back of spring/summer growth vegetation around fishery pegs has commenced mainly in preparation for the start of the river season, progress to date is;

River Avon
- Bredon
- Fladbury
- Pensham
- Pershore
- Wick
- Cleeve Prior
- Chadbury Meadows

River Severn
- Arley RB, 2 meadows below Harbour Inn
- Birds Meadow
- Danery
- Eardington Brook Section
- Knowle Sands 1 & 2
- Blackstone

Pools
- Uckinghall
- Nordley

River Stour
- Stourton castle

Waters planned to be visited in June are;
Severn - Knowle Sands 3 & 4, Grimley & Hallow, Ribbesford
Avon - Salford Priors, Nafford, Evesham, Mythe Farm, Barton & Bidford RB, Bidford LB & Marcliff.

The team at Pensham cutting their way through the new growth, our tallest volunteer is over 6 feet tall and the vegetation was 2 feet taller.

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,

You might like to know this little tale. I have not been fishing for nearly 40 years! Being a country lad I was blessed to be reared near a small brook that enabled me to fish on a regular basis. My friend and I were rather feral back in the sixties so after packing a few sarnies we would set off to the local brook and fished until we were too hungry to carry on.

The wild life was much more prevalent then and we used to watch the activities of water vole and kingfisher alike. We were convinced that silence and low observability were two of the keys to success, and consequently we were rewarded with these natural wonders.

We used to go to the local farms and dig for red worm and when we were lucky we might get some wasp grubs from the local pest controller.

By the time I got to my mid teens I was enlightened to the attractions of the opposite sex and alcohol. This then took up a considerable amount of my time and resources! So much so that I sold my tackle to continue this pursuit! The relaxation and enjoyment of fishing was forgotten in a blur of hormones and alcohol.

However I can now report that I have rediscovered this activity. After some research and scouting on eBay. I have joined the BAA, got a licence and tackle and have just spent one of the most enjoyable days that I can remember. As Coppice Lake is only 1½ miles away, it was the scene of my return. I had taken to reading watching, and listening to all available advice and pitched up. The company was good and my efforts were not unrewarded, I finally landed about 6 fish topped off with a 5lb bream. However my efforts were put into perspective by the next peg that achieved 2 carp of 16 and 26¼lb. I can now confirm that I am hooked on this sport after nearly 40 years absence and I curse myself for not returning earlier!

Yours sincerely
Andy Reeves

Hi,

Just to inform you that the fish that Stuart Bloor caught featured in the May newsletter is a golden orfe.

Regards Jon Mason

The newsletter goes from strength to strength - well done. In the May issue I noticed Stewart Bloor's koi/goldfish thing. It looks like a golden orfe to me and a good specimen at that. I once had one of 5lb on a fly and that was a surprise too although, unfortunately, not from BAA waters. Stewart's fish was probably put into the canal from a garden pond, still an unusual catch.

John Lane

Dear BAA committee,

In the May news letter it tells us how the wood cuttings at Uckinghall Pool were gathered and burnt! In this day and age of looking after the environment, I would have thought that this method of dealing with wood waste to be rather outdated.

Would you think it a better method of dealing with this waste would be to use a course type of wood-chipper instead of burning? The chippings could then be used as an environmentally friendly material to use on certain approaches, car parks and fields where cars can get stuck if the ground gets slippery or boggy. This is not as cheap as burning, but it has to be much less expensive when compared with shipping in any form of hard core.

One venue I am sure would benefit from this is Manor Farm Wasperton, where the dips at the field boundaries can get very greasy.

Blackstone I think would be an even better candidate, because if it rains heavily while you are fishing the whole of the track along the bank can be almost impossible to get off. I almost got stuck there once when this very thing happened! I have stopped going there purely because of this problem!

I could name many more venues, where at times ground conditions can become a problem. Leaving piles of chippings in strategic places at venues could also be handy in an emergency, even for use by an angler on a slippery river bank.

Just my environmentally thoughts, I hope you find them useful!

Albert Baker

Ed; thanks for your thoughts which initially appeared an attractive option. But on review I believe would have a higher environmental and monetary cost whilst increasing the workload of the fisheries work party. The reasons are;

We would need to purchase a wood chipper capable of being towed (quick check on Google gave a price of circa £4000)

We would need to store the wood chipper when not in use at our storage facility (a full sized container) which is already crowded.

We already tow a trailer full of tools and materials from our store to wherever we are working. This adds additional miles to our journey as our store is near Spaghetti Junction to the east of Birmingham whilst most of the work on our fisheries is to the west or south of the city. If we also had to tow a wood chipper this would require an extra vehicle for towing with additional miles and fuel used.

Many of the places we need to burn waste material are not accessible for a towed wood chipper.

I don't think that wood chipping would be effective for filling in holes in tracks that angler's vehicles use.

Powered wood chippers are very noisy which could cause annoyance for people in the vicinity such as anglers and walkers.

It is likely that the carbon foot print of using a wood chipper in fuel used to tow and power it would be greater that that caused buy burning the waste wood.

Thanks for your suggestion, keep them coming.

Executive update

2012 membership

BAA membership numbers across all types are up by 288 compared to the same time in 2011.

Lower Moor Fishery

Land adjacent to our fishery on the Avon at Lower Moor has been acquired by a birds trust and is being turned into a reserve. This has resulted in restricted access for anglers. To restore anglers access the BAA have agreed to swap part of our fishery for a new one in the same area. The legal process to complete this is ongoing. The fishery map in 'Where to fish' on the BAA website will be revised.

Nafford hydro scheme

The proposed low head hydro scheme for Nafford Weir appears to be gaining momentum and support locally.

The BAA is currently waiting the publication of formal plans.

New member of the BAA Executive

Mr Les Poulton was co-opted onto the Executive Committee at the June meeting, pending his formal election at the next AGM. That's five new members this year since an appeal was included in an earlier edition of the BAA News.