


B.A.A. NEWS



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July 2011

Spot that sign! – See page 8

Snakes! – See Fishing News

Note from the President

Members,

It is with much regret that I have to inform you of the sad death of Brenda Williams. Brenda was the wife of John Williams, the General Secretary of the Birmingham Anglers Association. For many years Brenda was a member of staff of the Association and worked tirelessly for the benefit of the Association, working alongside John. Many members would have met her on their visits to the Icknield Port Road office and more recently the Hagley office. Brenda was quiet, hard working and a lovely woman and I have to say from a personal perspective, it has been a privilege to have known her.

My thoughts and those of the Association's committees and sub-committees are with John and his family at this very difficult time.

Regards,

Ian

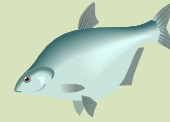
Care when fishing this summer

Don't forget when you are fishing this summer to wear a hat and apply plenty of a high factor sunscreen to your ears, face, nose and neck. This is to protect you from sunburn and longer term sun related skin damage.

Also drink plenty of fluid to keep yourself well hydrated in the hot weather.



Fishing news



Coppice carp record smashed again!



Hi. My name is Stan Kovachev. I was night fishing on Coppice Lake for the first time on Saturday 11th of June. About 6.20 PM I caught a carp with weight 34.2lb. My friend was witness; we checked weight twice and reported to bailiff when he came later. I attached pictures as proof.

Regards Stan

Arley opener



Hi I'm Lee Wilkes and this is the barbel I caught on opening day at Arley weighing 10lb 10oz taken on SBS Baits frankfurter hooker.

14lb 7oz cracker!



Hi

My name is Stephen Mayo I'm 38 from Walsall in the West Midlands.

I couldn't believe my luck on opening day June the 16th I hooked into my personal best Barbel from the River Seven on a BAA stretch in Shropshire.

I started the session at 05:30 hrs by baiting with two pints of hemp and a pint of ellipse pellets.

Simple tactics were used on both rods comprising of stone leads on a running rig down to a 3 foot fluorocarbon hook link to a size 12 hook.

I baited the hair rig with 10mm DD ellipse pellets.

After a great start of 6 Barbel to just under 9lb and 7 good sized chub the big girl was hooked.

After a spirited battle lasting 15 minutes with a hair raising 3 minutes where the fish was in thick weed she finally slipped into the net.

What a fantastic way to kick start the season thank you BAA.

Best Regards

Stephen Mayo

Wasperton barbel



A rather nice Barbel 12lb 4ozs caught at Wasperton 19/6/11

Steve Hewitt

Malvern Hills magic



Spent a cracking couple of 3 hours roaming around at Cotheridge on Monday 4th July. Water was very low and clear, saw a large shoal of chub and another of barbel cruising up and down (like a motorway). Got a couple of barbel out to 6lb + 5lb chub! An otter swam by as well!

From Moseley Si.

Editor's Severn season start



Bob with 1 of the 9

At Arley LB on Monday morning 20th June cutting back vegetation and digging out steps and pegs with the Fisheries working party. When we had finished I stayed on to fish and the rest of the working party departed wishing me well with a cheery '*bet you blank*'.

I had a pleasant few hours fishing the left bank below the island and landed a couple of 5lb barbel. I also had the luck to see a recently fledged buzzard perched in a dead tree on the opposite bank diving into the undergrowth to catch its' dinner.

On the following Wednesday me and an old friend Bob fished Kinlet and Stanley. When we arrived at the car park, we were met by a '*you might as well go home boys, I've been here all week and blanked*' from an angler who was just packing his van and leaving from one rental chalets alongside.

We fished for a couple of hours with no success and decided to move to a swim recommended by a Fisheries working party colleague and bailiff as being full of barbel. I broke the spell with a barbel of 8½lbs followed by another of 5lbs. My mate Bob then started catching with 9 barbel up to 8lbs in rapid succession, an excellent start to the season.

Regards

Ed

Great day at Coppice



Hi just to let you all know what a great time I had fishing at coppice on Saturday 2nd July and all day Sunday 3rd July here are some pic's.

I was doing a night and had a 17lb carp, 12.5lb carp, 10lb carp, 8lb carp. If you have not been to Coppice get down there it's a great place to fish.

Thanks Kev

SSSSSSSSSSSnakes

Dear Sir,

We thought that you may be interested - Please see below pictures.



My father and I have been fishing BAA waters for over 30 years. We are avid river fishermen and fish most weeks between the start of the season and October when the cold weather comes in. We love the wild, picturesque spots that the BAA has to offer and we love to see nature at its finest, regularly seeing, the likes of Mink, Otters, Vole's, grass snakes, many many bird species and every now and then we also catch a fish!!!

On Monday 4th July my dad (Andrew Keen) went out for a days fishing on the River Avon at Manor Farm. He had a cracking day and caught lots. As he was leaving the river field to join the road where the houses start he saw the below pictured snake sunbathing at the side of the road. It is definitely not a grass snake as we have seen many over the years and they are easily recognisable. He thought at the time that it may have been an adder (they are more secretive than grass snakes and I have only ever seen one before) and he picked it up with a bank stick to pose for a photo with it before letting it go off into the bushes. We have scanned the internet on his return though and all of the reports that we can find indicate that adder's grow no where near the size of this beast. It had similar markings to an adder however we feel that it must be something else due to size. Unfortunately the pictures are not brilliant as they were taken using a camera phone which is all was to hand.

Have you had any other reports similar to this one, do any of you guys know what type of snake it could be and if not do you want to put the picture in the next newsletter issue to see if any other members can help out with this query.

Many thanks,

Ben Keen.

Email us details and pictures of your memorable fishing trips for inclusion in Fishing News.

Please let us know if you don't want your name included in the article.

DON'T FORGET TO TAKE YOUR CAMERA AND MEMBERSHIP CARD

Spot that sign



One of the Fisheries Battle of the Balsam teams, Colin and Pete was recently at Bushley on the lower Severn and came across this old BAA sign. Pete reckons it's at least 35 years old and Colin likes the bullet holes in it!

Send in your photo's of old or unusual bank side signs, landmarks or unusual features, for publication in the BAA News.

Bailiffing



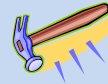
A nightline has been found in the River Salwarpe at Clains. If any members find these on any of our fisheries, they should be removed and immediately reported to the Environment Agency (0800 80 70 60) and the BAA Superintendent Bailiff Dave Webb (07973 624419).

Litter is an ongoing problem especially at Coppice Lake. When you leave any fishery please take your litter home with you. It attracts vermin, has the potential to injure wildlife and farm animals, is unattractive and gets fishing and anglers a bad name.

Remember no card, no fishing!



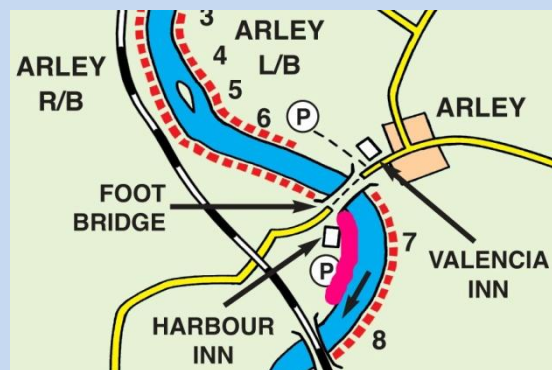
Fisheries report



Another new water

From the start of the new season, the Association has taken over the water alongside the first two meadows directly downstream of the footbridge below the Harbour Inn at Arley on the right bank of the Severn. Parking is free in the meadow car park on the right hand side of the road below the Harbour Inn on production of a valid BAA pass or day ticket.

Part of the existing 'Where to fish' map from the BAA website for Arley R/B, LB, Alveley, Stanley, Hextons Farm, Kinlet is shown below with the new fishery marked in pink. The original 'Where to fish' map on the web site will be updated to show the new fishery.



The Fisheries team have already put up BAA signs and cut-out pegs.

Bransford fishery

Regarding the new Teme fishery at Bransford we reported on in the June issue of BAA News. Since the start of the season we have received complaints from the owner of an adjacent fishery that BAA members are fishing on that water. To clarify the location of our Bransford fishery;

You will see an entrance in the fence at the top end of the lay-by alongside the A4103. This entrance is signed as access to the BAA water. You will then cross a wooden footbridge over a ditch and then enter a meadow. The fishing alongside this meadow is NOT BAA. Cross the meadow on the footpath and after about 300 yards you will come to another gate giving access to the next meadow. This is the start of the BAA water which is signed at both ends.

The fisheries team visited Bransford at the end of June to cut back bank side vegetation, trim trees and cut steps to create 15 very fishable pegs. They are planning to return later in the year when the vegetation has died back to create additional swims at the downstream end of the fishery.

Other Fisheries news

The annual spring/summer cut back of vegetation continues, the latest fisheries to be done are;

River Avon

- Bredon
- Cleeve Prior 4-8
- Eckington
- Mythe Farm
- Salford Priors
- Wasperton
- Wick
- Wood Norton

River Severn

- Arley Harbour Inn RB
- Arley LB 3-6
- Arley RB
- Birds Meadow
- Bushley 1-2
- Grimley 3-4
- Kinlet
- Knowle Sands 1-2
- Ripple
- Stanley

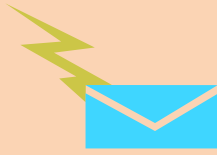
River Teme

- Bransford
- Eastham Bridge
- Lindridge track and car park

Pools

- Uckinghall
- Mythe

Note: Worcestershire County Council is refurbishing Eckington Bridge over the River Avon. From the 25 July to the 31 August the Bridge will be closed to traffic between the hours of 0930 and 1530 each weekday to permit the replacement of the masonry blocks in the parapet and pointing of the roadside faces.



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.

Dear John,

Just to let all BAA anglers know that I have just got back from checking a couple of rivers ready for the 16th and am shocked that Birmingham Angling Association have let Eckington get in the state it's in there is no way anyone can fish this stretch due to being overgrown. If any anglers travelled to this stretch on the 16th they will be fuming that a wasted journey took place, you cannot get anywhere near the banks.

A lovely stretch of river that BAA should be proud of and to let this happen is mind blowing when BAA should be looking after anglers that have paid good money to be able to fish there waters.

Yours Faithfully

C.Smith

Ed: The BAA Fisheries has a team of about a dozen volunteers who work all year; clearing banks, trimming trees, removing water weeds and building and repairing platforms. Their busiest time is during the 'Battle of the Balsam' clearing the spring and early summer growth from the river banks. This cannot start until late April when the summer plant growth has started. During this time the team is split into two and each team work two or three days each week. At the same time, team members also carry out activities such as; bailiffing, signing and preparing new waters etc. Because of the number of river fisheries the BAA have, the 'Battle of the Balsam' is not completed until late August. We prioritise popular fisheries and those that have early season matches booked but cannot do it all by the 16th June.

In the June edition of the Newsletter is a letter from 'Adam' re Walcot Lakes and the weed 'problem'...

In your response you point him to the 'Focus on Walcot Lakes' article which advises to rake the swim before fishing....

I've added a few of my own thoughts here on that, and you may want to pass these on?

This is absolutely sound advice which I second whole heartedly even to the point of doing so if tench fishing anywhere - even if a comparatively weed free water! This action is often so effective that you should tackle and bait your hook BEFORE raking so that you can then immediately cast into the freshly raked swim without further ado - and as often as not you'll get your first bite within a minute or two of casting in - the disturbance, far from scaring the fish has the complete opposite effect you'll find!

To create a rake suitable for doing this you'll need at least one old garden rake head (OK, use a new one if you want to!! :D)).

If using two heads wire/bolt or otherwise connect them together back to back so that the teeth are showing top and bottom, tie a length of strong cord/rope to each end of the rake heads so that it will make a 'V' shape which, when pulled at the middle, will give about 24" space between the apex and the rake's body - this ensures the rake will come back almost correctly aligned when you pull back in (if you just tie a rope directly to the centre then it will tend to swivel and come back in edgewise - angle of least resistance - which is no good at all). And then tie your main rope to the centre of that 'V' piece. Rope: ideally needs to be very strong as if you snag a rock then you want a reasonable chance to be able to pull free, but also the thinner the better as you will be able to throw out further and easier. Something like that orange stranded nylon that you find on crab lines (but preferably a little thicker if you can get some) is ideal or that braided nylon cord that is about the thickness of a washing line is good.

Also a good 'extra' (and inexpensive) piece of equipment to be used with the rake is one of those gardener's heavy suede gloves (around £1 a pair) as they will prevent friction burns from the flying rope and also protect if the rope tangles round your hand and 'garrots' it, as if you go for a 'big'un' and that happens on a bare hand it can be very painful!

Anyway, to use... wear glove... hold main rope about 1 foot away from the knot to the 'V'... swing backwards and forwards to build up a rhythm... and then, when

you feel the time is right, swing it with a big sweep UNDERHAND and let fly!! You could, of course, send it on its way over arm with a javelin throwing sort of action BUT remember you have a heavy toothed device coming up behind your head - not a good idea even if you're wearing a crash helmet! Stick to the underarm action.. And if you need to get the rake out further... grit your teeth, take your shoes and socks off, roll up your trousers and wade out a bit (being careful to check the depth of water at the bank side first!) but quite often you don't need to reach out as far as you may think you do... :) And as the article says... heavily weeded water... rake close in on first throws and gradually increase distance out as otherwise the amount of weed gathered on the rake can make for very hard work!

Hope to get Walcot Lakes myself soon..... but may be delayed a bit now with the start of the river season and all those barbel just waiting for me!

Steve Ridd

Hi John,

I've been reading the new Newsletter pages, excellent idea and well done too. I noticed there was someone asking about Walcot. Now, I haven't been there for a number of years (3??) but the way I used to fish with some success was (as you pointed out) rake the swim first, no further than maybe 3 rod lengths out and about 5/6foot wide, making sure the clumps of weed were left in the water either side of the swim (small fry and natures larder hide in there so it's only fair to put it back in). Then I'd bait up with a lot of particles, usually Redband pigeon conditioner (properly cooked before using and left to ferment for a week in mollasses), ewenuts (not actually nuts but sheep feed pellets), sometimes I'd just use hemp, pellets and my favourite groundbait mix. I'd also bung in half a pint of maggots and the same of casters, (red or red and white maggots), and good old JGG (Jolly Green Giant). Because of the weed I always used a minimum of 10lb line and fish fairly locked up to stop them burying in the weed (hence a 5/6foot wide raked area). Feeder (groundbait or method on free running or semi fixed setups) or float fishing. As with most shallow estate lakes I found early morning best or late evening, rarely would much happen between 10am and 5pm unless it was overcast and warm. A few times I'd turn up late the day before, rake and feed then camp in the back of the pub (can that still be done?) or pull onto the main road until dawn.

Must admit, I've got the urge to have another go down there, it isn't 'easy' as such but there's a chance of a good hit of tincas. Never got anywhere near the bream there and always blanked when after pike!

Kindest Regards,

Steve H.
Shropshire

Ed: Many thanks to Steve H. and Steve Ridd for their excellent feedback to the feature on Walcot Lake. This is just what our members want to read in the newsletter. I was talking to an angler at Lindridge recently who had blanked on six occasions at this venue. He would have been satisfied just to have had a bite! The fish are there but he needed to know what tactics to use to connect with the fish. If you have any top tips for other members please don't hesitate to share them.

Steve H. – you can still camp at the rear of the Powis Arms, but I would suggest that you contact them about a pitch because the site is popular with walkers at this time of year.

Hi John,

Subject: Pool Quay/Maesydd

Three BAA members including myself fished the above water last night - superb stretch - barbel to 9lb (exactly) chub and two good brownies on worm (intended for barbel/chub).

Keep up the good work.

Cheers
Andy

Ed: Thanks, great to get feedback on one of our more remote waters.

Executive update

In Tony Keeling's article in the 21st June edition of the Anglers Mail titled 'Kings of the castle' (page 52), it was stated that BAA day tickets could be purchased on the bank. We have contacted the Anglers Mail to point out that this is incorrect and a correction has been published in the 5th July edition.

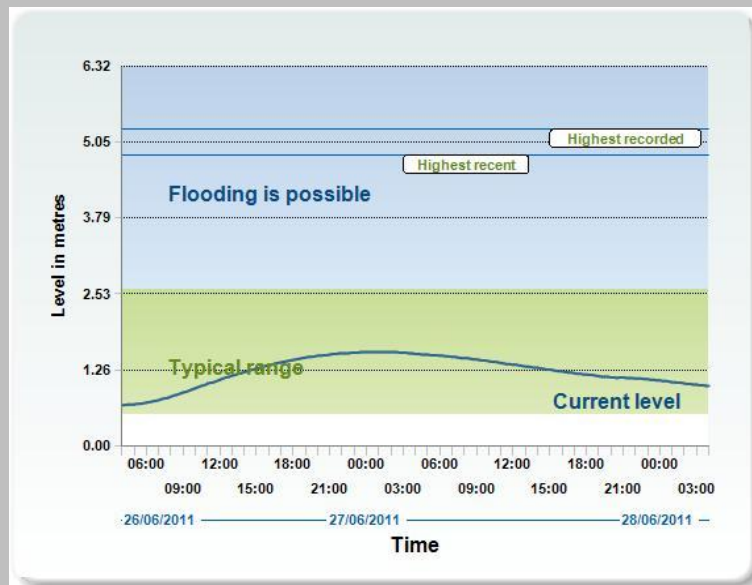
Tony Plowright has resigned from the BAA Executive for health reasons. We would like to thank Tony for his many years of service.

Fishing tips - Please send in any tips/guides on successful ways to fish our waters. We will publish them here and also build up a library to supplement the *Where to Fish Guide*.

Focus on River Levels

One of the most important pieces of information to have before setting off for a river venue is the condition of the river, for the level, rate of flow and the likely colour will determine the tactics to be employed. I hope that the following will be of use to those many members who are not aware that such information is readily available. Only last week, I met a member who had travelled over 100 miles to fish the Severn, only to be disappointed to find that the river had risen considerably in just a few hours, making it very difficult to fish his chosen venue. Similarly, I spoke to a number of anglers last weekend on the Teme who were also very disappointed to find, when they arrived at their venue, the river was very low and clear, and this greatly affected their choice of pegs. Fortunately the Environment Agency has an excellent website which should prevent members experiencing disappointment and the expense of a wasted journey.

The example below shows the typical range for a particular monitoring station (Bridgnorth) and the current level. The line graph indicates whether the river is rising or falling, a good indicator of likely rate of flow and colour.



How do you get this information?

Log onto the River and sea levels section of the Environment Agency web site by left clicking your mouse on the following URL (Web site address);

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/riverlevels/default.aspx>

Hint: save this in your favourites for easy future access by selecting the Favourites pull down in the menu bar at the top left of the window and select Add to Favourites...

Move your cursor over the map and each marked area will highlight. Left click your mouse on the Midlands. This will take you to a new page showing a map of the River levels: Midlands, split into West, Central and East.

Again move your mouse and left click your mouse on the part of the map that covers your target river (West for Severn and Teme, Central for Avon). For this example West, this will take you to a map showing the River levels: Midlands, West.

Move your mouse over the map and different areas will highlight for different rivers (e.g. Teme) or river sections (e.g. Worcestershire Middle Severn). For this example left click your mouse on Worcestershire Middle Severn area, this will take you to a map showing the River Levels: Worcestershire Middle Severn.

This map shows little green circles which are the Environment Agency river level monitoring sites. For this example left click your mouse on the green circle labelled Bridgnorth. This will now take you to a web page displaying the recent river levels data from the Bridgnorth monitoring site which includes the graph shown above of the past 48 hours of river level at this point and the current level.