

AJS Fishery News

The New Coverall Format

Welcome to the first of the coverall newsletters. In the future the newsletters will cover all of AJS Fisheries waters in one newsletter. Keeping you informed about how all of the waters are performing and of new waters coming on line. Existing members will be given priority with regard to new fisheries. Each fishery will get its own page plus there will be a feature page and competitions etc. The other new feature will be that from now on the newsletters will be available electronically via the AJS Fisheries web site; www.ajsfisheries.co.uk

The Weather

I can not start without highlighting the bazaar weather so far this year. As I write this piece we are experiencing summer but it is September. April 16th and the carp were spawning in the stock ponds. In June we had in excess of 12" of rain nearly half our annual average.

July was not much better and August was far from the hottest on record that we were promised in the spring.

Not the ideal summer for fishing but even so catches have been amazingly good.

Well, what next? I expect to have snow before the end of October followed by a heat wave and then several tornadoes before a Caribbean type Christmas.



New Waters

The plan is to expand our fishery portfolio in the next couple of years via direct management and through co operation with customers.

The waters are a combination of gravel pits, estate lakes and new builds offering angling opportunities for all types of anglers.

The two newest waters are Sandfield Lake, Balderton, Notts a three acre gravel pit. The water is a nice intimate carp water with fish to mid 20's details from Richard on 07725122880.

The other water is in Wilmslow near Buckingham. This brand new lake covers seven acres and is a start from scratch project. It is aimed at carp anglers who would like to own and develop their own water but don't have the time or money.

Members can get involved with everything from swim and path construction to planting and stocking the fishery. The lake is set in a wide secluded valley and will become a superb place to fish details from Anthony 07855829005.

Anyone with details of waters available for rent, lease or development please contact me at the usual address.

Knipton Reservoir

Rule Changes

I would like to start this piece by highlighting the fact that I hate rules when I am fishing. Most of us go fishing to get away from all the rules of life HOWEVER THE FISH MUST COME FIRST!

Following problems with damaged fish and lost end tackle I have decided to change the fishery rules as from the 1st of July 2007.

From that date you will be able to use mono main lines and tubing only. For general fishing a minimum of 12lb breaking strain is to be used. If snag fishing then you must use a minimum of 15lb.

The use of braid for mainlines or leaders will not be permitted. Braided hook links will still be allowed.

Tapered leaders or other heavy mono leaders will not be permitted.

Plastic or lead core leaders will not be permitted.

The changes are to protect the fish and wildlife.

If you lose rigs and cannot retrieve them let me know.

Lost and Found

One Fox weighing crook and pole found in the fence swim August 2007. Contact me 01476870647.

Knipton Match

Friday September 29th to Sunday 30th September

Fish Growth Rates

The best news is that the fish are continuing to grow steadily and I am confident that by the end of October there will be in excess of 150 twenties in the water and the first stockies will be getting to the 30 lb mark.

The commons caught this year have shown good growth with Golden Eye coming out over 28lb. Who will get the first 30 common?

The scaley fish are not easy to catch but a few have been out to 14lb which is encouraging for the future.

I will be putting in a number of bigger fish this winter once the water levels have dropped. Hopefully if the harvest goes well I will be adding 10 fish between 25 and 35lb. Watch this space!

Do not forget the photo competition and the end of year prize. Get those capture shots in to win free fishing!

Boat Matters

I would like to request again that members paint their boats a drab green colour so they don't stand out on the bank.

In addition we will be constructing a boat rack this winter and all boats will need to be labelled and padlocked to the provided chain for security.

Tea Tin

Chaps the tea tin is empty and all the tea, coffee, sugar, powdered milk, water and gas keeps going! Please contribute.

Lodge Extension

I would like to double the size of the lodge to include a seating area inside for winter time socials.

Is there a member out there who would like to help to develop and carry the project through?

Give me a ring if you would like to help.

Belvoir Lakes

Do not forget that with your Knipton ticket you get the opportunity to fish Belvoir Lakes as well.

The two 12 acre lakes have been stocked over the last three years and offer good fishing for doubles.

The lakes are great fun in the right conditions see the Belvoir page for catch details.

Have a go!

Members Features

I would like to encourage members to produce informative articles for the news letter. It is a great way for information to be passed on to help everyone catch. I am pleased to include a great piece by Shaun Harrison on stalking at Knipton which proves that you do not have to cast into the trees on the far bank to catch.

Please send me your ideas and experiences for future features. All will be most appreciated.

Nipping Around

Knipton *Shaun Harrison 2007*

With time so limited and a need to gauge the carps reaction to a couple of new baits I have been working on at Quest Baits, I have recently taken to ditching the camping equipment and simply roving around Knipton with a couple of 10ft **Free Spirit** rods and the minimum of gear in a semi-stalking type of approach.

Knipton had never struck me before as being a particularly suitable stalking water until I took a step back and really thought about it. I was desperate to fish where I could see some fish. One of the less glamorous parts of running a bait company is that all of the early day testing of baits has to be done by yourself (or should I say I find it easier taking this route?). Once I am happy with a bait, I will offer a few around to my chosen testers to gauge the reaction of the carp from a wider berth of waters.

So, there I was with a few different versions of a meat based bait I needed testing in a fishing situation. I had done the usual thing of guinea pigging my carp at home and was quietly confident I had a bait which would get the bobbins moving. The problem was I wanted to actually be able to see fished for carp feeding on it. There are so many baits which carp will eat but few that hold their interest for a period of time causing them

to rip the bottom of the water up in search of every last bit.

I looked at the handful of tickets I have and slowly discounted the ones where I was forced to fish blind. The Knipton ticket was about to be tossed aside when it suddenly occurred to me that so few anglers seem to go creeping around the place looking for margin feeders yet I had on several occasions stumbled across fish in the past.

In more than one instance I had been about to cast when a carp has appeared swimming by me very close in. Invariably I would be spotted and the carp would bolt. In each instance I had thought along the lines of 'that's blown it for that one returning'.

Then I thought a little deeper about it. Each time I had taken a stroll around Knipton without my tackle I would invariably find a carp in the edge somewhere and that was without putting myself out too far to find them and certainly not using the power of bait to help along the way.

Another thing I had noticed from reading through the Knipton log book was just how many anglers appeared to catch during the first few hours of being in a pitch but nothing there after. It hardly takes rocket science to work out that the carp are starting to become very aware of angler pressure.

The more I thought about it the more I became convinced that creeping around and

stalking the Knipton carp was a distinct possibility.

So, armed with just a couple of 10ft rods (to eradicate the temptation to go flinging leads out at distance over the reservoir) and minimum gear I set forth on my first ever Knipton stalking session.

It was with great relief when I arrived that first morning to see long stretches of bank with no angler presence – or more importantly minimum amounts of line cutting sections off. There was less angler presence up the shallow end where the main feeder streams enter so up there I wandered.

I scattered small carpets of bait in each available swim. Just enough on top of the shelf to be able to keep a look out if anything was visiting it. After baiting the top four swims I did my usual routine of checking them all out in turn. First spot nothing. Second spot which was 'The Cave' unbelievably had a carp feeding on the bait already just minutes after introducing the bait. This was going to be a doddle. Or so I thought. I went and set a rod up and hurriedly returned to find the water still colouring up and little vortices forming oily rings in the surface film. I gently lowered the rig amongst the swirls (no need to cast) and sat back and watched the water slowly clear and it was soon so obvious the carp had done the off! They had sussed me. I had taken them for granted expecting them to be a walkover. Big lesson learned.

I wandered between the four baited pitches for a while and the next chance I had was in the 'Poachers Pitch'. A mirror crept in whilst I was looking, up-ended had a few baits then moved on. Quickly I got a rig into place and tucked myself out of the way but where I could still see any carp moving in. Only a few minutes had passed before the same fish returned. Straight down on the bait and the water slowly changed from a relatively clear brown colour to a dark reddish brown as the carp dug away in the silt. The take seemed to take for ages to come but eventually the water erupted and the tip whipped round. I was so careful not to break any of the natural screen in front of the swim whilst playing and netting the carp and soon found myself with my first semi-stalked Knipton carp in the net. I have caught plenty of larger carp in my time but this one gave me a real sense of satisfaction. I truly felt I had caught it rather than simply legging it up blind.



I was to have two more encounters which I managed to mess up before moving over to 'No mates and catching a 20lb mirror in a similar manner.

The following few weeks nipping around Knipton became my sole carp fishing exploits. I have been amazed how many fish you can actually get eyeball to eyeball with. They are very spooky of angler and line presence and the boat can be a total pain arriving in a swim without disturbing the fish. But, with practice these things can be worked around.

One particularly memorable and satisfying capture was 'Golden Eye' the common from around 15 inches of water. I had spotted the fish and managed to get it interested in broken bits of boilie. It was so difficult keeping concealed out of the way of the fish. The water was that shallow that its shoulders were out of the water whilst moving from bait to bait. Talk about excitement. I was shaking more than, well – something very shakey!

Once again after what seemed an age with me hardly daring to look, breathe or move the water erupted and my prize was on. The scrap was incredible and Golden Eye actually leapt twice whilst I was playing it. In all of the years I have carp fished I have only ever experienced this twice before, once at Patshull Church Pool whilst playing a stalked 20lb common and once at the Levas Pit when I hooked

what had already been christened the 'Leaping Common'. Strange, I have never heard of a mirror leaping during the fight.

Eventually Golden eye was beaten and the scales read a very satisfying 26lb 5oz. Yet another Knipton carp steadily growing in size, I find the future of Knipton quite an exciting prospect. Proper fish, catchable on proper methods. If you haven't yet tried hunting the Knipton carp down then you don't know what you are missing. For the time being my casting rods and reels will remain gathering cobwebs at home. It is by far the most productive fishing I have enjoyed during the years I have been a Knipton member and certainly the most satisfying.

For now I will sign off wishing you all very best fishes.



Golden Eye at 26lb 5oz

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Shaun for kindly supplying this article he is a very busy man running the **Quest Baits** company. The web address is www.Questbaits.com take a look! this really is top quality carp food.

Belvoir Lakes

Big Ben Tolls 1200lb

The hauling machine Ben Dobson has managed to bank 1200lb of fish since January.

The fish have come from both lakes and in all conditions Ben has really sorted the lakes out.

The fish have come to both bottom and popped up baits. I do know that Ben has pre-baited with a lot of Nash Maple Squid boilies. His hook baits however remain a closely guarded secret.

All of his catches have been recorded in a journal detailing weather conditions, swim, bait, time, rig etc. If you get a chance ask him to look its interesting reading.

Let me know of any spectacular catches or good specimen fish of any species.

Return of The Skimmers

Good news this summer is that skimmers between 3oz and 2lbs are once again being caught out of both the Upper and Lower lakes. It has been a long time since they have shown in numbers. This bodes well for the future bream fishing as long as we can keep the cormorants at bay.

Access

I would like to take this opportunity to remind members that access to the fishery is via Cobleas Lane only! The Estate Farm manager has had problems with people leaving gates open and sheep getting out. Please could you close all gates behind you.

Pike Match

Anyone interested in a pike match this winter. Give me a call.



Belvoir Match

The second Belvoir Match was held at the end of April in bitter conditions. Eleven intrepid pairs fished the weekend.

Ray and Matt Ratty came first with 95lb 4ozs, Second were last years winners John and Ray with 49lb 12ozs narrowly beating the Brooksby students Andy and Dean who hand 49lbs 8ozs.

A fish and chip supper Friday evening was followed by a freezing night and wicked easterly winds. The Ratty's caught steadily throughout the match fishing the Island swim.

Kevin and Tim on the top lake put in a late charge Saturday night Sunday morning but it was not enough to get into the top three. A few more hours and things might have been different.

It was a great event and I would like to thank Ray for organising the match. Next time I hope the match will be bigger and there will be more prizes.

Anyone who is interested in fishing the next match should contact me at the usual address.

New Stock

Just to keep you updated. The lakes will be stocked again this winter; the Small Lake will get some more skimmer bream, roach, perch and tench. The Upper and Lower Lake will receive some more double figured carp to low 20s. Watch this space!

Competitions and Items for Sale

The Big Photo Competition

Do not forget the photo competition. The best capture photo will be picked in December and the winner will get free fishing for a defined time. The pictures also help with the stock management of the lakes and future decisions on stocking etc. All photos are much appreciated and I will try and display as many as possible on the notice boards or in the lodge.

GIANT ROD SALE

Grab a bargain for Christmas. Rodger Hurst one of Britain's best rod builders is throwing open his back catalogue of blanks and custom built rods to free up space.

There will be something for everyone whether you fish for specimens, coarse fish or game.

The blanks include Harrisons, Sportex, Bruce and Walker, Shimano and others.

12' Shimano Diaflash match rods. These are awesome rods that retailed at nearly £250.00 yours for £60.00 custom built. Very limited supply so hurry!

Exclusive Harrison Carp rods. Custom built in a variety of lengths and test curves. 12' 12' 6" and 13' all available. The rods are 2 1/4lb, 2 3/4lb, 3 1/4lb and 3 1/2lb test curves. The rods are £100 each with deals available for multiple set ups. You cant get these any where else.

Rodger also has a large number of spod, marker, stalker and specialist blanks to sell off.

Give him a ring and arrange a time to rummage through the treasure in his rod building workshop.

The work shop is in Croxton Kerrial and his number is 01476 870707.

www.rhrods

Bait

I can provide a full range of Nash Bait to members at competitive rates. Ready made and Frozen Boilies all sizes £6.00 per kg. Pop ups, paste and pellets also available. Check out the nash web site for full details www.nashtackle.co.uk.

I can also provide a variety of pellet types and sizes. The pellets are £1.50 per kg or £20.00 per sack.

I can also supply prepared particles ie hemp, maize, wheat, maples etc. price on application.

Items For Sale

We will be offering a range of terminal tackle to members on the bank.

Simple items such as leads, basic hook patterns, tungsten tubing etc. These will be offered as a benefit to membership to AJS Fisheries and as such will be excellent value for money.

This service is another way we can add value to your membership throughout the year.

Large items of tackle are also available via order e.g. bedchairs, bivvys etc..give us a call for a quote.

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