

## MKAA Update – February 2015

1) For obvious reasons anglers have been relatively sparse on our banks since before Christmas, which is unlikely to change until the weather improves significantly.

2) Some good news for when that happens: the Parks Trust seems, as promised, to be making a spell of winter fishery work an annual event and recently brought in contractors to replace four platforms on Lodge and were due to do two more on the Tear Drops.

They have also given bankside bushes/trees on the dam and peninsula of Lodge the kind of 'haircut' they gave Tear Drops 1 & 2 last year.

Bailiff Ian Pledger reckons they have done a great job. I have only seen photos so far, but I'm minded to agree.

The 'night syndicate' introduced to control after-dark fishing on Lodge, to minimise opportunity for complaints, continues to work well with members still routinely patrolling at nights even in this weather.

3) We've had no reported water quality problems this winter...just rather too much of it on occasion. The exception has been intermittent diesel slicks on Ashlands Lakes. The EA is working to get that stopped, and the likelihood is that it is mostly related to work on the stadium site and therefore, hopefully, a relatively occurrence.

4) The contractor removing red signal crays from Parks Trust controlled Ouse sections and our Bradwell Ouse has been doing a great job and, in the year just gone, has on occasion removed up to A TONNE at a time from lengths of a few hundred metres around Stony in particular.

5) Some people may have seen a burned-out car at Bradwell Lake a couple of weeks ago and feared that vandals were moving in. In fact it belonged to an unlucky angler who, visiting the lake, found it flooded out...and then had the misfortune for his wheels to go up in smoke as he restarted the engine to leave. Surprisingly, despite his loss, he took the time to ring in and apologise for any inconvenience it might cause to MKAA. It has since been removed.

6) On the other side of the behaviour coin, a persistently loutish angler with self-admitted problems was banned by MKAA's disciplinary committee last summer, having already served a previous ban.

He appealed against the length of his ban and appeared before that committee (along with a responsible mentor) to express the greatest regret for his past behaviour and to convince members that he had turned over a new leaf.

The committee gave him another chance, subject to conditions including the proviso that if he went back to his old ways...it would mean a life ban.

He did go back – and was banned for life. He is also, and entirely co-incidentally, banned from the waters of at least one member club...

7) We are still hopeful of opening the Ashlands Lakes 'fun fishery' this spring. The five acre Magna Park lake near the M1 link road is, however, on hold for at least a year. We have yet to be able to determine what its 'normal' level and depth are likely to be, and believe it needs more time to 'settle'. Warehouses are still being built, and rainwater run-off obviously increases with each roof/vehicle park added.

**8)** The first weekend of February was due to see a British pike champs eliminator on Willen Lake. Prior to that several nice fish had been caught from the north lake.

**9)** Back before the turn of the year myself, Mike Sando and Phil Oxley found out first hand what it is like to stand in the winter river for hours while hanging on to kicking water jet pipes as we scoured out sediment from spawning gravels at Adams Mill.

It was part of a joint effort with Environment Agency fishery officers – and having done it the once we can all vouch for the fact that those guys really DO earn their wages!

We also helped stake logs into shallows – concentrating the flow to keep jetted areas clear of silt – and helped build a 40 metre brushwood, wire and stakes 'wall' along the bank below the bridge.

The idea of the latter is that the brushwood will fill up with sediment, reinforcing it to minimise further floodwater bank erosion. It should also help reinforce against tunnelling crayfish as they apparently don't get on too well trying to burrow through wood, which in turn should prevent additional bank collapse. It looks like a superb trotting swim.

**10)** A week later the EA stocked a few hundred more junior barbel into Adams – fish reared at their Calverton fish farm. Together with dace, roach and chub they have now added some 35,000 farm-reared fish to the Ouzel, Ivel, and the Ouse between MK and its Ivel confluence, in recent years.

All that is just part of what your rod licences help pay for.

Happy fishing.

Trevor Johnson – chairman, MKAA

5-2-15

01908 270000

info@intermediauk.com