

## MKAA Executive Committee Report - December 5, 2007

**R**ECENT months have seen some brilliant catches from MKAA waters – led by a 19-4-0 barbel (pictured) which DID NOT come from Adams or Ravenstone.

*Neil Atkins caught it from an MKAA Ouse section between The Butts and Stony Island, and for good measure he'd had a 3-7-0 perch from Toombes a few weeks earlier.*

All our Christmas match top weights came from Toombes and, with the river rising following overnight rain, the top four had 40-14-0 (including a tench), 15-8-0, 11-6-0 and 9-14-0.



In October Abbey Lads found Stone Park in flood for their club match which was won with five perch over 2 lb plus some others for 15-15-0. In the same month Team Gilders' Lodge match was won with 21 bream for 58 lbs...after a passing bailiff had told the angler they weren't feeding! A November Royal Mail match on the Ouzel produced – despite hard frosts the previous three nights – top weights of 20-8-0, 18-12-0 and 15-8-0.

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**2)** The British Carp Championship qualifiers held on Willen South earlier this year brought in £1,000 for MKAA. Thank you the carpies!

On the other side of the coin the association is to round up the proceeds of its August fishing festival to make a £1,000 donation to Willen Hospice – taking the total raised for that cause to £5,000 over four years, a worthy effort by all who contributed who've contributed.

**3)** In September carp on Furzton and Lodge were being caught with multiple sores and looking very hung-over. The good news is that the EA has not been able to find a disease/parasite cause and it is being put down to the effects of the poor summer with, in many cases, fish stressed through being unable to spawn and also by dirty rainwater running off the roads and streets.

**4)** During the past three months MKAA committee members have been involved in numerous external meetings. One involved Ray House and Stuart Pemberton in bankside consultation at Toombes with the EA over its proposals to remove various trees and other vegetation...a move considered by us to be less than beneficial to the high quality perch fishing there.

*more follows....*

Seems someone in flood-relief had labelled the job high priority, probably following complaints from the Stony Stratford area after the July flooding. Ray and Stuart did a very good job for us on the day, though it did not all go our way. However floods the next week – and others since – together with input from EA fisheries man Andy Sadler, have hopefully put the work permanently on the back burner.

5) MKAA is now actively cray trapping at both Lodge Lake and Wappenham Water. We are NOT yet trapping on the Ouzel and the dead otter found in an illegal trap on the that river a month ago was nothing to do with us.

6) Initial dealings with people reported for rule-breaking has been taking up so much time that, for a trial period, it is being dealt with by a sub-committee of the association's main committee.

7) Estimates are being taken for repairing the worst of the damage to the road at Bradwell Lake, and also for some form of extended vehicle access further round the lake. However, given the

likelihood of a fairly wet winter – the site has already been under water a number of times – physical work is unlikely to take place until late spring at the earliest.

8) Three or four weeks back an angler, working on a building site adjacent to Caldecotte Lake, reported seeing men catching fish and putting them in a plastic bag under a bush.

Our assistant head bailiff, also a part time EA bailiff, went to investigate and caught one of them recovering the bag which contained pike of 7 lb and 9 lb and a perch of 2 lb or so.

He took him back to the site and, watched by a crowd of construction workers, photographed the fish and the culprits, got the perch and one pike back to life, searched the men's car, and booked them for breaking EA bylaws.

The site manager was so incensed by everyone downing tools, and the fact that two of his Polish casual labourers had been fishing when they should have been working, that he fired them on the spot!

We are now waiting to see if the EA will prosecute the pair, but the important lesson is that an angler – seeing poaching in progress – immediately made a phone call and made something happen.

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**See poaching or fish stealing in progress**

**Call the EA on 0800 80 70 60 – 24 hr line**

**Do it quick! (and please let us know on**

**01908 270000 or 01908 660579, promptly, too)**

**Thanks**