

## **MKAA Executive Committee Feedback to Members February 7, 2007**

1) Sport has been quite good for some over the past couple of months and the first two winter league rounds, plus the veterans' series, have produced decent catches – despite floods and changing temperatures. Amazing those veterans (over 55s) they fish get-together matches every Wednesday of the year come rain, snow or sleet except for the Christmas and New Year weeks. Anyone interested should call Terry Valentine on MK 565446.

2) Some work was carried out at Dimmocks on Monday Feb 5 by a Shuttleworth College team of trainee fishery managers – pulling out Norfolk Reed which, though killed by herbicide the autumn before last, has refused to decay and disappear. A small amount of path work remains to be done when the ground dries out somewhat.

**The bulk of the work carried out at Dimmocks has been paid for with a £6,000 grant from our friends at the Environment Agency.**

3) Efforts to overturn the Emberton Park night fishing ban are to be vigorously renewed.

4) Our new website is now live and on air thanks to publicity manager/web master Ian Steward. The forum section is certainly generating interest.

5) A carp stocking at Bradwell was carried out just before Christmas.

Some 300 plus fish ranging from just over 1 lb to around 2 lb+ were added and were the same fast-growing 'Supa Carp' strain used in Willen South. They looked good and full of bounce.

6) An EA fish rescue recently carried out on the Loughton Brook just downstream of Lodge Lake produced at least one decent sized carp was captured, the belly of which was swollen to such an extent that it looked like a scaled-football with a head and tail. A few others of various sizes have actually been caught in similar condition in Lodge during the past month.

A fisheries lab autopsy showed the fish to have a **fist-sized tumour in its belly**, with the cancerous growth surrounded by masses of retained fluid which caused the grossly swollen appearance.

The EA will now be carrying out a netting and chemical tests on Lodge to try and find the cause of the problem and determine what action needs to be taken.

7) Detailed plans for this year's fishing festival – spreading events around our waters rather than confining it to Furzton – are nearing completion. As in previous years the charity benefiting will be Willen Hospice. The previous three events have so far raised around £4,000. **In each year so far MKAA has rounded-UP the amount raised** using association funds.

8) Planned installation of fish refuge cages and planting of lily pad beds in the margins of Bradwell is now penciled in for April. This will cost a shade over £2,600 – **£2,000 of which has been covered with a grant from the environment Agency.**

more follows....

9) Given the apparent continued growth in the crayfish population at Lodge Lake MKAA is to approach its Parks Trust landlords with a view to starting its own trapping and removal programme.

10) MKAA's day-ticket **Wappenham Water lake** (with reductions for MKAA members) is available for match bookings this year. Anyone wanting to book a match there – up to 20 pegs – should call Trevor Johnson on 01908 270000.

11) Earlier this month a bailiff caught an **MKAA member on the Ouzel with a dying chub of 3 lb or so on the bank behind him, and it was clear the man was allowing the fish to die prior to taking it away with him.** The bailiff promptly confiscated the man's card. The culprit has been banned until further notice, and it only remains for him to be allowed to provide any mitigating circumstances before the association decides how long he will be banned for.

**NB:** MKAA has a number of rules intended to improve fish welfare, and **Rule 8 clearly states that no fish are to be taken away from association waters** (and that no live ones are to be added, either).

12) The association has prepared proposals to improve the angling attractiveness of the local canal. It runs to four pages and covers boat behaviour and traffic volumes, improving poor/deteriorating access, reducing job culture intimidation, education/communication with other user groups, creation of no mooring areas in prime fishing spots, cracking down on random long-term mooring, habitat improvements, stocking were appropriate, and the housing development threat to angling behind Wolverton Works.

MKAA was invited to submit such a fisheries action plan to the canal's owners, British Waterways. We are less than optimistic that BW will take it on whole heartedly, but were not prepared to let the opportunity pass without making ourselves heard.

For those readers with current canal experience, yes it DID include trying to deal with aggressive cyclists and the problems of dog muck on the towpath.

Thank you for your interest.

**Trevor Johnson** chairman, MKAA 01908 270000 [angling@intermediauk.com](mailto:angling@intermediauk.com)

**See a poaching or fish stealing incident in progress**

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

**Do it quick! (and please let us know, promptly, too)**