

MKAA Quarterly Report, December 3, 2008

1) Following a raft of good fish during the summer, sport was pretty quiet on MKAA waters during the autumn and early winter, but one venue which did (and still is) produce generally reasonable and consistent sport was the Ouzel. Numerous people had good roach bags from the river, with the best known so far being Brian Bowron's brace of roach – 2-2-0 and 2-6-0 – landed from the same swim on December 18 while trotting single caster under a stick-float.

2) The aftermath of the Furzton Festival has rumbled in the shape of the prize draw which has raised £652 (final figure) – on top of the £2,000 produced for Willen Hospice by the Festival itself.

The draw might well have raised a lot more had it been held earlier in the year, but because of issues relating to a lottery licence with the local council it couldn't be. If we run with it again next year, the intention is to launch it in May early June, when there are far more anglers about, and do the draw at the conclusion of the festival.

3) The Vic Wright Memorial 24 hour match, staged on Bradwell Lake, saw some 50 anglers raise around £4,500 for Willen Hospice. In that independently run match each entrant is required to seek as much individual sponsorship as possible rather than simply paying an entry fee.

4) As many will be aware there has long been an apparent poor recruitment rate of barbel and chub in the Ouse – a situation exasperated by the return of the otter. Responding to anglers' concerns voiced through the Upper Ouse Fisheries Consultative Association, the Environment Agency has started a £15,000 three-year research project on barbel growth rates and survival in the Ouse.

That involves a post graduate research student at Hull University, and thousands of small marked fish being released into the river.

Given that the results could eventually help improve stocks of several species, as well as barbel, MKAA is to answer the EA's call for co-funding from anglers with a donation of £500 a year for the three years of the project. The EA is delighted with our response.

5) On another front the EA is keen to put money into an MKAA project and we are again talking with its officers about improving vehicle access between Bradwell Lake and the river. MKAA fisheries officer Phil Oxley is now working up a properly costed scheme to do just that.

6) Phil is also estimating costs of the previously proposed alterations – to minimise future flood damage – to the Bradwell track. This particular repair was scheduled for the summer past...but the ground was never dry enough for long enough.

7) The September Parks Trust and EA session on Brush Mill, intended to encourage public consumption of crayfish, was held on one of the wettest days of the summer but still attracted more than 50 people. Officer for the disabled Larry Harris attended to promote MKAA.

8) Disabled access officer Mike Newman has, as part of his role been looking at our waters one by one and is enthusiastically drawing up a shopping list of potential improvements which we are hoping to get largely funded by external sources.

9) Nuala Gray has continued her youth development programme and is currently negotiating with what could be the first school to sign up with MKAA to provide angling tuition for its pupils. We now by the way have four qualified coaches and one more on his way to joining them.

10) Ian Greenhood has recently gained us an NJAA junior national for the coming summer – 200 pegs at £3.50 each.

11) Head bailiff Stuart Pemberton and his team have again had to clear significant quantities of rubbish away in recent weeks, rubbish revealed by the autumn as having been stuffed under trees and bushes, particularly on Lodge.

12) The ban on night fishing on the end pegs of the Lodge peninsula has been almost universally respected, and aggro there has been minimal since its introduction. Stuart is also trying to get the Parks Trust to replace/install a number of missing platforms on Lodge/Tear Drops/Wolverton Mill.

Thank you for your interest.

Trevor Johnson

Chairman, MKAA 01908 270000 angling@intermediauk.com

**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**