

MKAA Quarterly Report – September 3, 2008

1) OK, so the weather has been rubbish all summer, with a consequent effect on sport, but our River Ouse sections have been producing chub to six pounds and, last week, a 3-8-0 perch from The Butts.

Bradwell lost its colour early in the summer but regained it and has been fishing fairly well ever since with roach showing all round. A veterans' pairs match was won with 14 lb plus, and multiple tench/small carp catches have been made along with bream to 10-3-0.

A member fishing Dimmocks for the first time had a superbly conditioned 22-12-0 common carp and a 23 is said to have been caught there earlier in the summer.

Abolition of the close season on Tear Drops proved very popular, with some good catches made, and Emberton's Grebe Lake has been producing bream weights – up to 100 lb – and is still, apparently, fishing well. Wappenham Water has also produced some good fish following the mini-carp stocking.

Then there was Furzton during the Festival. While the latter was a huge success in raising £2,000 plus for the hospice – with a lot of people enjoying themselves – it also helped show the true potential of the fishery.

With most of the carp busy belatedly trying to spawn in D section, bream made up the bulk of the catches with around 800 lb (between 68 anglers) being caught in the Frank Swan Memorial Open alone. With a new MKAA five-hour match record (Terry Tapp) of 104-9-0, 98-1-0 second and 40 lb unable to make the top five...it was quite a result.

The executive wishes to thank everyone who helped with the festival and or took part in it. It really was the best yet and, of course, there's still the draw for days out with the 'stars' to go – so please buy, and help sell, lots of tickets!

2) For the first time ever we produced Festival bulletins – full colour A4 news sheets – on the first and final days of the event and they were distributed electronically to national and local media, and were up on the MKAA website, within hours of the matches ending. That helped create interest and gain us some additional press coverage. A black and white copy of the final round-up will be circulated with this report or, if you have the means and the interest, you can see it at www.mkaa.co.uk under the news button. The bonus is that it cost absolutely nothing to produce and circulate other than time.

3) Several senior NFA members, including president Terry Fell, performance director Mick Turner and England team director Dick Clegg took part in the Ken Ball Memorial Veterans' match (principal MKAA founder and president Ken died earlier this year) and, already impressed by Furzton's performance during the Ladies World Championships back in 2003, were further impressed by its performance on the day.

more follows....

They have since asked if we can make it available in early July next year for the first ever Veterans' World Championships to be held in the UK.

That's a new event, held for the first time last year. The UK fixture had been destined for a commercial water but when, for whatever reason, that venue was no longer available, the NFA opted for Furzton rather than another commercial.

Their choice is a major tribute to Furzton's ever-growing reputation...and will bring in a healthy match fee in return for which we will need to close half the lake for five days.

4) The planned stocking of small fast-growing carp took place in July with roughly 300 going into Wappenham (paid for by the landowner) 300 into Bradwell and 600 into Caldecotte. The ones in 4 acre Wappenham soon achieved the desired effect of stirring up existing stocks and improving catches significantly.

5) As many will have read in this year's Newslines, Bradwell Lake is to host the Vic Wright Memorial charity match on September 13/14 – previously an annual event on Linford Lakes. We took it at short notice to prevent it having to be cancelled, and hope members will accept that any inconvenience caused is in a good cause.

6) Grass cutting is currently underway at Bradwell, part of the annual tidy up. The weather has made it difficult to get the planned repairs/flood-proofing of the track there underway, but we're still hoping to get it done before the real winter sets in.

7) As recently as this morning the Environment Agency was asking if we had any access projects we would like funding help with...which may enable us to accelerate extension of proper vehicle access/parking along the west/river bank side of the lake.

8) Back in July the Parks Trust spent thousands of pounds on weed cutting on Willen South (a 50 metre band around the edge of the lake) and much of the inlet arm of Caldecotte North. Obviously that was done in the interests of safety for those boating/falling into the water, but it was also a benefit to angling. They hired in two £60,000 machines which removed – from Willen South alone – an estimated 90 tonnes of weed (wet weight) which was then carted off for composting.

A secondary benefit will have been that, while making it easier to fish there, removal of the weed will also have taken away a huge amount of nutrient ('locked up' in the weed) from what have to be over-rich waters thanks to the constant deposition of fish and wildfowl droppings.

more follows....

9) This Saturday, September 6, the Parks Trust and the EA are holding an event on Brush Mill intended to teach anyone interested how to catch a few crayfish, cook and eat them. Regrettably we were given very short notice...but who can disagree with the principle?

10) When a former member of the executive came forward with ideas and the desire to help improve both facilities for the disabled and awareness of fish welfare, the executive gratefully co-opted Mike Newman as disabled access officer.

His roles will include: regular monitoring of our waters to look for ways of improving access for all, but particularly those with limited mobility; to facilitate availability of advice and encouragement to disabled anglers, chiefly through our website which is currently lacking in that area; and to work with youth development officer Nuala Gray and others to provide education on the pursuit of big fish – and how best to treat them when they're caught – for all ages. (Officer for the disabled Larry Harris will continue to concentrate on education and other assistance for the disabled). Welcome back Mike.

11) Now for the other side of the coin. As you are aware, because of stupid behaviour by a minority of anglers we lost the Furzton Island swims which had taken so long to obtain. That said we were then able to re-open D section which had been given up in exchange for the islands. Now we're having real trouble with drinking parties, which include a small number of so-called anglers, and family groups whose behaviour – turning the area into a huge toilet/rubbish dump is disgusting. Our bailiffs are working with the Parks Trust to try and reduce the problem, and the Trust is to cut back a lot of the vegetation to make the area less attractive to the culprits. Random police patrols have been introduced at Wolverton Mill to try and deter a hooligan element from hanging around there.

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

Records tumble as MKAA's FESTIVAL RAISES £2,000!



THIS year's Furzton Festival – in aid of Willen Hospice – broke all previous records for the event.

The Frank Swan Memorial open match on bank

holiday Monday was won by Terry Tapp with 104-9-0 of bream – a new MKAA five hour match record – ahead of Eddie Ford's 98-1-0 and followed by Geoff Ringer on 63-1-0, Tony Hobbs 47-4-0 and Pete Patton on 43-15-0. Almost 80 competitors caught around 800 lb of bream between them.

But more importantly the five day series of matches raised £2,137 for the hospice...a new record for the event and almost twice last year's total!

And there's more cash to come as tickets are still being sold for an associated prize draw – the winners of which will get to go fishing with angling stars Mark Pollard, Steve Ringer, Ian Welch, Tim Hodges, Steve Spurgeon and Chris Rose...who are all giving their time free in aid of the hospice.

● The 44 hour carp match, in which pairs of anglers fished for the biggest fish rather than the most, was won by Mark Crompton and Anthony Morris with a 17-14-0 fish. Simon Hopkins and Sam Caton were second with a 16-14-0 and Dean Jasper and Dave Lovegrove third with a 16-8-0 as 26 entrants caught 38 fish for 414-10-0 on a slow weekend.

● Dave Edgoose won the match for the disabled with 14-12-0 ahead of George Moore 11-7-0 and Dennis Sambridge 9-14-0 as 30 entrants raised more than £400 between them.

● Top weight in the youth event was George Hale's 8-13-0 – beating Josh Balodis by just half an ounce. Tom Morettie was third with 5-8-0.

● The Ken Ball Memorial Veterans' open which launched the festival had been won by Mike Kelly 34-0-0 ahead of Terry Lancaster 30-10-0, Alan Ford 29-7-8 and England manager Dick Clegg on 29-4-0.

●●● Organiser Bob Final is already working on NEXT year's festival.



● Right: Frank Swan Memorial winner and MKAA five-hour match record-setter Terry Tapp collects his trophy from Mrs Pauline Swan.



● Left: carp match winning pair Mark and Anthony. The latter, who only started carp fishing a few weeks ago, landed the 17-14-0 winning fish.

● Right: Dave Edgoose, back row left, was overall winner of the match for disabled anglers.



Organiser of the match for the disabled, Brian Sapsford, returning part of Ed's winning catch



● Above: winner Mike Kelly receives the Ken Ball Memorial Shield from Mrs Pauline Ball.



● Above: youth winner George Hale gets his trophy from match sponsor Cost Co manager Neil Richardson.

AIM PROPERTY SERVICES
helped sponsor the 2008 Furzton Festival. Thank you.

Carp match entrant Ed Ward collected £150 for the hospice...before coming to the match!



Amphibious weed cutter at work on Caldecotte in July

Right: heaps of cut weed at Caldecotte. The two machines took over 90 tonnes out of Willen South!



Steve Warren with the 22-12-0 common he caught at Dimmocks Pit during his first visit to the water. New to the city, it was only his second trip on an MKAA card and, so far, he's pretty pleased with the results!

STOP PRESS

September 3rd Vets match on the Ouse won by Chris Russell with 18 lb+ of bream and perch from Holland's field

