



MILTON KEYNES Angling

Association

newsline

16 pages
of news
& info

For 2008 - '09

Society of responsible anglers founded in 1970. Members of National Federation of Anglers, UOFA & supporters of the ACA

FOUR NEW MKAA RECORDS IN A YEAR!



19-4-0 Ouse barbel
And it WASN'T out of Adams!



9-10-0 TENCH
see how Matt Hodges catches 'em
at Bradwell - centre pages

7-12-0 Ouse chub! How long before we get an 8?



AND THE BIG ONE

Furzton 35-8-0 finally pips canal as MKAA carp record venue

BOILIES made to his own recipe – don't ask he's not telling – the night before really did the business for Furzton regular Mick Dowsett.

Within three hours of pumping out free offerings to the far side he'd set a new MKAA carp record with the 35-8-0 common pictured...finally topping the association's Grand Union Canal title holder.

And before packing up he'd landed a 21 to make that wet and miserable July Friday evening one to remember!

"I'll be using that recipe again– catching these fish has really boosted my confidence in it," said Springfield man Mick, who had been fishing alongside brother-in-law Colin Dobedoe.

Colin said: "As it was coming in we hoped it was another 20 – but as soon as it came over the net I could see it was a lot bigger than that."

Mick, who has served a 15 year 'apprenticeship' on Furzton, added: "The fishing just seems to be getting better and better and there's some nice people get down there, though the fish are also wising up a bit which is to be expected."

He used a spod rocket to get his free samples out, but said: "I never put too much out – just enough to attract interest."



Mick Dowsett cradles his new MKAA record - caught from Furzton on an otherwise miserable Friday night!

BRITISH WATERWAYS IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE ITS...

acquisition of the TRING RESERVOIRS COMPLEX

Now open for **DAYTICKET FISHING**
(season permits also available)



Three great coarse fishing waters

Marsworth, Startops and Wilstone reservoirs

Specimen tench, carp, bream, catfish and pike

£6 one rod - £10 for two rods

Trout fishing available at Tringford Reservoir (season permit)

For further information call 01582 841985

Leisurely bream bag

YOU don't have to be a long-stay specci hunter loaded with boilies and beachcasters to get among the Bradwell Lake bream.

Retired Romford, Essex, angler Alan Moss has been bagging up on the venue's shoal slabs.

Visiting for a short session on a sunny summer afternoon, he fished just a rod-length out with three pinkies on a size 16 to net 15 fish between 2.5 and 5 lb each for a catch totalling more than 40 lb.

He'd started out catching small perch but then the bream shoal moved into his swim – and stayed.

And, yes, he was on the short-walk roadside pegs, too. Come again Alan?

Wot's inside...wots inside...

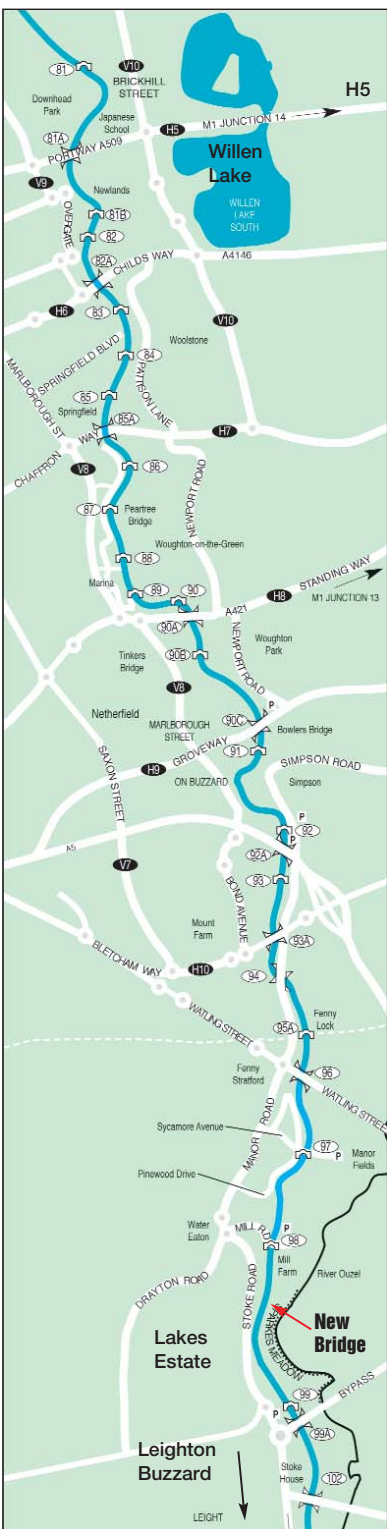
DETAILS of this year's Festival of Fishing - back on Furzton Lake - are on page 3.

So far the anglers of Milton Keynes have raised more than £5,000 - over £1,000 last year - for Willen Hospice...so let's have some fun and see if we can do even better this year?

Want to know more - or BUY ON-LINE? Call 01908 270000/660579 ... or visit www.mkaa.co.uk

Underrated and underfished - but canal is just Grand

BOAT TRAFFIC IS MINIMAL AGAIN THIS YEAR, TOO



Bailiff Heidi Arnold with New Bradwell 24

Carp, pike, tench, bream, perch, roach, rudd, dace, chub and even cats...the good old Grand Union has them all



Angler's Mail man Ian Welch with 24-15

No-one living in MK can be more than a few minutes' journey away from one of MKAA's premier fisheries...yet its 9.5 miles of Grand Union only gets a fraction of the angling attention it deserves.

Specialist Mecca with carp in the high 30s, pike topping 20, tench to 9 and bream over 7, perch pushing 4-8, numbers of pound-plus roach...and hordes of smaller fish for the match and leisure angler - they're all in there.

It may have been around for

a couple of hundred years but it is still one of our most reliable - and consistently productive - fisheries.

That consistency is underlined by the fact that - in the four NFA senior National Championships hosted in the city...there wasn't a single dry net!

And perhaps because of the weather, and the economic downturn, boat traffic has been at a long-time low for the second summer in a row, making for some cracking sport.

Angler's Mail star columnist Ian Welch (above) rates it as: "A formidable fishery with as massive element of the unknown."

Having spent an autumn day fish-spotting he then fished for the camera with his best a 24-15.

He said: "Boilies, pellets and meat were my chosen hookbaits, there's no need for anything too sophisticated.

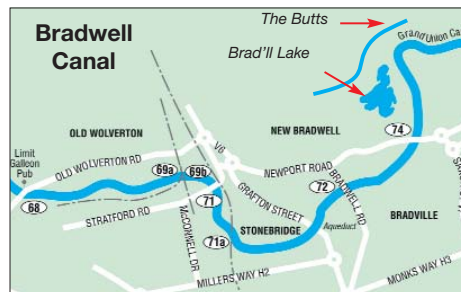
"Hemp and maize was the loose baiting combination. It will work anywhere."



Something for all ages and tastes: above is young Niall Woodhouse with a fine Mill Road perch and, below, a nice roach



A superb match venue



This is civilised fishing - Milton Keynes style! To be honest, the fishing was rubbish down on Stone Park on the last day of the season. But this pair still had a good time.

With a good fish 'n chippie only a short walk away, and handy park picnic benches just 30 yards from their swims, they didn't even have to carry their kit off the water before settling down in the sunshine for a lunch which was obviously far tastier than what they'd been trying to tempt the resident chub and barbel with.

Nice one lads. See you there again this March 14?

For all YOUR club's printing

New Bradwell Reprographics
Tel 01908 222419
Fax 01908 221144



If YOU can't be asked to take YOUR rubbish home... DON'T come to MKAA waters!!!

IT'S FESTIVAL TIME!

Anglers' £5,000 hospice boost

MKAA's Festival of Fishing has, over the past four years, raised £5,150 for the city's Willen Hospice.

That's so far...but this year's Furzton extravaganza is set to be the biggest and best – and financially the most productive for the hospice – yet!

All costs are covered by generous sponsors and MKAA, with every penny from entrants going to the worthy cause.

Tackle shop proprietor Richard Swan (the Frank Swan Memorial Open held in memory of his late father and former MKAA vice chairman) is shown handing over the latest cheque to the hospice's Sue Wallis at the association's AGM.



Wednesday Aug 20
Ken Ball Memorial veterans' Open
 (for the over 55s)
 sponsored by MKAA

Thursday Aug 21
Match for the Disabled
 sponsored by Willards Fishing Tackle

Friday Aug 22
Young People's Matches
 (under 17s - various age groups)
 sponsored by Willards Fishing Tackle

Friday Aug 22 (start)
48 hour pairs carp match
 sponsored by Venture Carp Tackle Ltd

Sat Aug 23
Ladies Match (on Tear Drops)
 sponsored by Gone-Fishin

Mon August 25
Frank Swan Memorial Open
 sponsored by Gone-Fishin

- Matches open to anyone whether or not they're MKAA members.
- All, except the Ladies', will be held on Furzton Lake.
- **Furzton closed (from Aug 20 to Aug 25 inclusive) to anglers NOT taking part in the Festival. Sorry, but it is a very worthy cause.**
- Family attractions to include: pond-dipping sessions, bouncy castle, side shows icecream and refreshments.

Brilliant Special Attraction
 Prize draws for days out fishing with the stars (you choose which) with Mark Pollard, Steve Ringer, Ian Welch, Tim Hodges, Steve Spurgeon and Chris Rose all giving their services free – thanks lads.

Entry forms in local tackle shops.
 Forms and more info at www.mkaa.co.uk
 or call 01865 890090
COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN!

FURZTON IS JUST GREAT

From monster carp to chunky roach – Furzton is quite possibly MKAA's most exciting 'stillwater'...and heaving with fish of all shapes, sizes and species.

Though well-known for its ever-growing carp – and rapidly gaining a reputation as something of a regional Mecca – it is also a cracking conventional match venue which also really comes into its own as a specimen and pleasure fishery.

Other species abound there. Stillwater chub to at least 5 lb, big bream, tench to more than 8 lb, perch pushing 4 lb and mega shoals of big roach are all part of a very attractive picture.

A veterans' match (July 08) was won with 35

Because you never know what it will turn up next!

lb...and 4th place went to 17-8-0 of roach on caster. Can't be bad, and rarely does a season go by without roach nets of 50 lbs or more being taken.

There are also a few catfish, a species never officially stocked.

A strong, consistent, wind is usually a help and if you can catch it when it's been blowing into the hotel corner for a few days, especially in the autumn, then bites on feeder from quality roach, bream and the odd carp can be too frequent for it to be practical to use more than one rod. Yes...they CAN come that fast – and to nothing fancier than worm, caster and maggots!

Two 48 hour British Carp Championship finals both produced total weights around the half ton mark.

Furzton is open all year and you can use three rods on a premium ticket. PLEASE stick to the official car parks, and DON'T disturb the people who live nearby



Left: Lee Gray with 31-12 PB leathery mirror. **Below:** James Scobie with his PB 33-12-0 common – just look at the breadth of that fish...it is almost as wide as it is deep.



NEWS FLASH – New home for Vic Wright Memorial

MKAA has stepped in to ensure the popular Vic Wright Memorial charity match – which raises thousands of pounds for Willen Hospice – can go ahead this year.

When the match had to unexpectedly leave its traditional home on Great Linford Lakes, the association stepped in and, at short notice, has

made Bradwell Lake available.

Because of that the Brad' II complex will be closed to other anglers on September 13 & 14.

Sorry for any inconvenience, but it's an event worth making way for.

Anyone wanting to book a ticket should call Den on 07889 754423.

The lure of Emberton

Emberton park is set in a world of its own – so let's hope its cash-strapped council owners don't see fit to fog it off to some profit-driven commercial outfit which then proceeds to ruin it!

Barrier controlled access, a water-side access road right round the inside of the 'park (please stick to the surfaced car parks, especially in wet weather) and an atmosphere, normally, of peace and tranquillity are all part of the picture.



NO-one will ever know for sure how big this Grebe Lake mirror was on the day Gone-Fishin proprietor Gary Underwood landed it...but the net is 30 inches **so the fish has to be at least 40 inches long**. It had previously got away with teasing Gary by slurping next to his feet during several evening sessions – before finally falling for a nice old-fashioned floating crust!

The four lakes (open all year) hold some fair stocks of most common species with carp going up into the 30s, bream close to double figures and tench which have even been known to feed furiously during January snow storms.

Until this summer a 9-6-0 Emberton tench held top spot in MKAA's record list.

The 'park river – and the backwater over by the town bridge in times of winter flood – are deservedly popular and subject to the statutory March 15 to June 15 close season.

An MKAA season ticket allows you free day-time fishing (no night fishing allowed) and you have to pay for car access: £3.50 a day April to October, £2 a day Oct to March.

A season pass (£45 for a full year) is available and the £15 Oct to March version is great value.

You can use three rods on the big lakes on an MKAA premium ticket.



This 4 lb Emberton RIVER tench – and two of similar size – was hooked by their young captor last autumn when he tried maggot for a few roach. The roach eluded him on the day.



...the call of Caldecotte

Tench and bream into double figures, carp to the very high 30s, big pike, perch, roach and hybrids, 90 acre Caldecotte Lake has the lot.

Those putting time in fish spotting have been rewarded with some outstanding catches. Going when there's been a big, on-shore blow for a few days can also boost your chances...and on the right day 100 lb+ of big slabs is not out of the question.

Average depths are around 12 feet and the fish are often right under your feet.

It has produced MKAA's roach (3-0-0) and pike (30-4-0) records.

To find it look for the windmill on top of the lakeside pub at the south end of the A5 dual carriageway.

● In recent years the EA has spent £15,000 on fish breeding areas to boost overall stocks.



● Open all year, 3 rods on premium ticket.

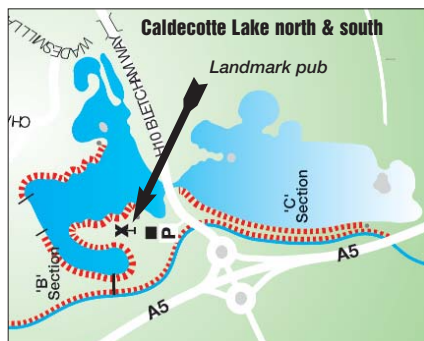


Far left: Floyd Edwards with 9-13-0 Caldecotte bream and, left, Roger Stratton with 7 lb tench. Andre Whilmy's shot, above, shows the south lake island.



Top: Andy Whilmy (who has had Emberton tench to 8 lb) and, below him, friend Chris – both with bream. Below them is S Coles with a big tench and Ken Gates with a 28-5 Emberton pike.

The Ouse section shown bounds the 'Park on two sides and, on its day, can produce magnificent caster roach nets plus chub, dace, bream, pike, perch, and the odd tench, barbel and, latterly, carp.



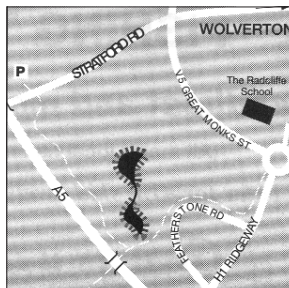
...and Wolverton Mill

MKAA's Wolverton Mill fishery is two tiny storm water lakes with barely a dozen pegs between them.

But they are heaving with carp of all sizes, including crucians.

No night fishing, and no keepnets in the interests of fish welfare.

Have fun and keep it simple. Traditional close season – March 15 to June 15 inclusive – applies.



Now in its 35th year it is MK's most mature balancing lake and...

Willen's a big water with big fish

GET a good wind on it and Willen Lake can be magic.

Catches of big bream totalling more than 200 lb, carp and pike into the 30s, and tench pushing towards double figures have all been caught. So, in seasons past, have legions of quality roach, rudd and perch.

On their day the north (some 60 acres) which has produced bream to 12+ so far, and the south (around 90 acres) can provide fabulous fishing.

In recent years the south lake has had several carp stockings, including half a tonne of double-figure Naseby fish, and

thousands of small fast-growing 'Supa-carp' some of which, though only ounces when put in, are already early-doubles.

There are 30s in the north lake, too, though the species is nowhere near as prolific as in the south lake.

It has also produced tench over 8 lbs, at least one 30 lb pike, 3 lb rudd and perch on the 4 lb mark.

Weed has been a prolific problem on the south lake this summer but should clear when the algal colour returns.

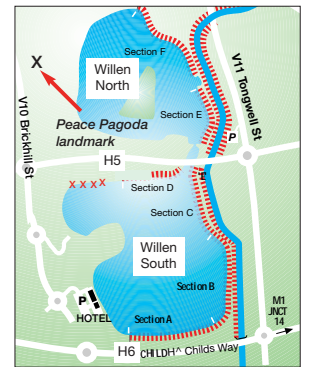


■ Taken by Daren Richards the atmospheric shot above, of Simon Ryan playing a big'un - which turned out to be the 20-7 pictured left - sums up what it can be like at Willen on a warm summer's evening/night. Willen is open all year and you can fish three rods on a premium ticket.



■ Pictured left is Roger Weeks with a 24-8 pike from Willen North and above him is Jon Cooper with a 9 lb bream - he's had them a lot bigger in the past.

Shown far left is Jon's dad Brian who proved you don't have to punch herrings to the far horizon with this 19 taken on a No 5 Mepps spinner...less than five feet out!



ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

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FISHING TACKLE

KIDS WELCOME

**OPEN 8.30-5.30 Mon - Sat
9.00 - 12 noon Sundays**



Always testing the goods for quality

PROBABLY THE FRIENDLIEST TACKLE SHOP IN MILTON KEYNES

Come in and have a chat. We know all the local waters and if we know what's fishing we will be happy to pass on the info. We sell permits to cover 90% of waters in MK - MKAA, NPFA, Great Linford canal, DATS and the Galleon



OUR quality control never stops!

Open BEFORE 8.15 am most days



WE BELIEVE OUR BAIT IS THE BEST IN TOWN & WE'RE COMMITTED TO KEEPING IT THAT WAY!

FRESH maggot livebait daily

**Browning
ABU Garcia - Fox
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**Trolleys - rods - reels
nets - luggage
pods - spods & all the end tackle you will need**

**Hemp - sweetcorn
luncheon meat - tares
Monster Corn - bloodworm
pastes - dips - glugs
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Alien Baits, John Wilson Baits**

...SIMPLY THE BEST...

If you aren't in it you can't win it... Snap-up **£100!**

YOU are in with a chance of winning **£100** if you submit a picture of your – or **someone else's** – catch or fishing memory, to MKAA.

It doesn't have to be a huge fish, a massive bag or even include a fish...just a good picture helping illustrate the magic of our sport and what it has to offer.

A very famous photographer used to call it 'critical moment' photography – capturing that special moment when a fleeting glint in the eyes, or the sun breaking out from behind a cloud, brings a picture to life...transforming it into something special.

To catch it you are either lucky or really looking at the image in the viewfinder instead of just pressing the button. Taking more than one picture of the same

thing can increase your chances but you still need to be trying for that X-factor moment.

RULES:

1) It must have been taken on an MKAA fishery (Emberton, CEMEX, Letchworth & the Oxford shared waters are included for this purpose).

2) Submit it together with FULL name, address, telephone number, and details of the contents, within FOUR weeks of it having been taken.

3) The winner will be chosen by MKAA executive officers who are NOT eligible to enter (neither are association bailiffs) and their decision will be final on all matters.



A magnificent picture of a magnificent perch – bristling with defiance like the stuff of angling dreams.

That's why Steve Wright's crisp pic of mate Neil Atkins displaying a 3-7-0 Ouse perch from MKAA's Toombe's Meadow has won this year's £100 picture prize.

They must be a camera-happy pair... as last year Neil won the money with a pic of Steve and a Ravenstone barbel!

Good luck to them for showing that ordinary anglers can produce results to match those of professional angling mags.

Their efforts also give them great souvenirs of their special moments.

Can you do as well?

4) MKAA will have the right to publish pictures submitted and where it wishes and may retain the print/transparency/e-file for future use.

Please send your entries to: "MKAA Picture Competition," PO Box 3195, Milton Keynes, MK3 6ZY.

You can also email electronic files (decent size JPEG format is

best) to MKAA at: info@mkaa.co.uk if using digital...but please send full-size files and a phone number.

Free season tickets will go to those entrants judged to have provided the best 'near misses'.

Good luck – enjoy your snapping as well as your fishing!

Discount dayticket prices for MKAA members at Wappenham Water

Wappenham Water is a mature fishery with a superb head of carp, roach, perch, bream, tench and some crucians, too...

The carp range from a couple of pounds up to 18 – possibly slightly larger – and will take most baits.

This summer has seen an injection of small fast-growing 'Supa-carp' which are really stirring the resident fish up a bit.

Like the idea or not, it also holds a fair head of established stillwater barbel and chub – both species going well over 5 lbs – plus crucians, big bream, tench, orfe, and perch caught this year to 4 lb.

And its silver fish can come on feed like there is no tomorrow.

On a bright, hot summer day one man fished 3 metres to hand off the dam to take 40 lbs of small roach...and it has at least one shoal of roach in which the smaller fish average a pound apiece!

It's around 3.5 acres, depths vary from 3 feet to 15 or so, and there are 20 superbly built comfortable concrete pegs, a mown path all round and a car park just 50 yards walk from the water.

Added to the quality of the fishing is its peaceful rural location.

Getting there couldn't be sim-

pler: From MK and Northampton take the A43 or A5 to Towcester, then the A43 bypass round to the McDonalds roundabout and take the minor road (signed to Abthorpe and Helmdon) off that.

Stay on it until you reach Wappenham (about 5 miles) then the first left turn in the village (called Brookside, and signed to Syresham) and the car park is 150 yards on the right.

From Banbury: take Welsh Lane and turn towards Helmdon. Stay on that road until you reach Wappenham.

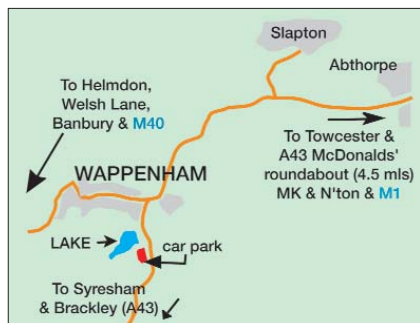
From Brackley: A43 and turn off through Syresham. Enjoy.



Above: angler's-eye view across Wappenham's deep-end



Above: Roger Bird with really fit looking 14-10 common typical of what Wappenham Water has to offer.



Within EASY REACH of MK, Northampton, Daventry, Banbury, Brackley & Buckingham

Day ticket prices – MKAA members

May 1 to October 30

Adult (aged 17 or over) £5.50; concessions £5.

Evening tickets (after 4 pm) £4.00

November 1 to April 30 – £4.00 all categories

NON - MKAA members

May 1 to October 30

Adult: £6.50; concessions £5.50.

Evening tickets (after 4 pm) £4.50

November 1 to April 30 – £4.50 all categories

Inquiries & match bookings on 01908 270000

RULES: No night fishing or presence on the property during darkness; ALL fish MUST be returned alive to the water; NO litter, fires/barbecues or dogs; Respect the fishery and everyone else at all times; No carp over 5 lb in keepnets; no more than 40 lb of fish in a net; barbless or microbarb only, no so-called bent hooks, 'beachcaster' setups or bivvies. **ONE rod per ticket – 2nd rod Only at bailiff's discretion.**

In short, just enjoy yourself and be nice to everyone. If that's too much to ask...it's probably not a place for you.

WANT to know who's responsible for what, need help or want to give your feedback? (all numbers 01908 prefix unless otherwise stated).

Chairman: Trevor Johnson 270000 (07801 183381).

Vice chairman: Gary Maton 662546.

General secretary: Bob Final 07794 392701.

Youth team manager: Ian Greenhood 503587 (07775 518866).

Match sec: Bob Valentine 674820.

MKAA contacts

Fixture secretary: Bas Brunning 222468.

Training & education: Nuala Gray 320007.

Head bailiff: Stuart Pemberton 660579.

Assistant head bailiff: Ron Earnshaw 372271.

Water quality: Ray House 226007.

Officer for the disabled: Larry Harris 675766.

Banksides: Den Reid 07889 754423.

Publicity: Ian Steward 07974 827098.

Fisheries officer: Phil Oxley 562680.

Want to know more - or BUY ON-LINE? Call 01908 270000/660579 ... or visit www.mkaa.co.uk

Tear Drops - they're full of fish



Small they may be – barely two-acres apiece – but the Tear Drops hold some mighty fish!

Carp into the mid 20s are present, having worked their way down the Loughton Brook from Furzton. Again probably migrating from Furzton, there's a fair head of chub, particularly in TD number 1, with fish to 4 lb.

Periodic flooding sees all four mini-lakes become one, but it is surprising how each continues to exhibit distinctive characters. No 1 for example can be a great autumn and winter roach fishery with high double-figure bags of pound roach always on the cards, while number 2 holds lots of bream. Tench to 6 lb can turn up in any of them.

Fishing is from permanent pegs only on three of the four waters (the fourth – the third in line working away from Bletchley – is a non fishing bird sanctuary). Access is from the two car parks off Davey Avenue.



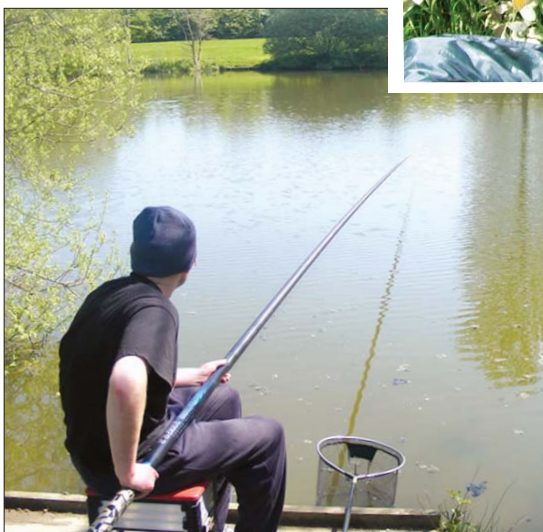
Above: Janet Starkey with a nice mid-double; top left Cliff Starkey with a nice brace of 'Drops bream; and below young Caley looks to be over the moon with this fine roach while, bottom, Connor Godfrey – who'd fished a 3 metre whip – marvels at the thrill of his first ever fish.

Happy days.

Among MKAA's longest held fisheries, Tear Drops are a favourite for many...and offer something for everyone - be they specci-folk, match people, beginners or leisure anglers.



Above: Simon Godfrey with a good-looking Tear Drops double. It or its parents no doubt came down the brook from Furzton.



Above and left: Lawrence Greenhood gets down to it with 36 lb of Tear Drop Two bream – only part of catch shown – using pellet and pole on a sunny day in May (before the rains came)!



DANGER OF DEATH!

Take care – ELECTRICITY CAN KILL YOU!

YOU don't have to touch a cable – just get near enough for the voltage to jump the gap!

So **DON'T** fish any closer than 30 metres (33 yards) to ANY cable.

Before starting to fish, look UP to check there are no cables nearby.



PLEASE: remember: It's better to be biteless than life-less!



TWO rods ONLY on the Tear Drops
Now open all year!

PLEASE NOTE: Reciprocal arrangements with North Oxford and Letchworth ONLY allow members of those clubs to fish MKAA's canal on those tickets. On ALL other MKAA waters an MKAA season or dayticket is required.



REMEMBER: NO swimming in MKAA waters at any time, and for safety no junior night fishing unless accompanied by an adult.

...FOR MILES AROUND...

...AND WHEN YOU JOIN...



Getting the best out of Brilliant Brad'II!

When Matt Hodges and his dad Tim, both Pallatrax-sponsored, decided to give Bradwell Lake a go, they really showed just what a calculated approach can produce. Here Matt sets out how simple it can be for anyone prepared to do a bit of homework.

That 9-10 tench is a real beauty



Preparing to fish Bradwell Lake my dad and I set out to discover more about it - always a good move on a water you haven't fished before.

It is around 30 acres, with no islands and just marginal rushes as features. We'd been told it held a variety of species including carp, bream, tench and the normal silver fish.

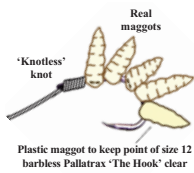
Plumbing with a marker float we found an area of gravel roughly in the middle of the east bank, some 70 yards out and extending for about 80 yards along the bank, which we felt was an ideal place to start.

Not knowing what to expect we decided to use rigs and baits which should hook almost all the species likely to come across our baits. Dad chose to fish a swivel Stonze weight and short 10lb Gamma fluorocarbon hooklink and size 8 barbless hook - with either plastic sweetcorn bait or very small fluoro pop-ups - fished in conjunction with 'method' groundbait.

I opted for similar tactics but used an in-line Stonze™ with the LILO system, 8lb Gamma fluorocarbon hooklink, size 12 barbless, and maggots on the hook. I also fished 'method' groundbait around the Stonze.

I've always liked maggots as a hookbait, believing most fish will readily pick them up, especially when feeding on groundbait. I always fish maggots straight on the hook as I have found this just as effective as messing about with hair-rigs or maggot-clips.

During our 48 hour session we caught a succession of good fish



Plastic maggot to keep point of size 12 barbless Pallatrax 'The Hook' clear



19 lb Brad'II cat with a taste for maggot

including double-figure carp, and bream, and tench to nearly 7lbs.

I landed tench to 6-12, numerous bream to 9-2 and several small double-figure carp. Dad also had carp and tench and fluked a double-figure bream...which I'm sure was just luck.

The bailiff told us that ours had been one of the best all-round catches from the lake for years, and proved what he had said all along - that there are excellent fish in the lake.

What it proved to me was that by carefully picking a good swim and then applying a successful tactic, like the Stonze system with the 'method', you shouldn't fail to catch good fish.

For a free brochure on the Stonze System email Pallatrax at pallatrax@aol.com or visit www.pallatrax.co.uk or call 01409 240042.



Bradwell Lake by day...



...and by night (pic Andrew Hilmy)

Wholly-owned by MKAA, Bradwell Lake (open all year) features a network of wheelchair-friendly concrete paths and pegs. The fishery is being developed with Environment Agency and National Lottery support.

Following last year's exploratory trip with his dad, Matt went back in June this year for two solo sessions.

His catch list reads like an angler's dream! That 9-10 tench - a new MKAA record - an 8-10 and 18 others from 2 to 6lb.

He also caught 92 bream...the biggest being 10-6 and 9-14, with eight more 9s and "lots" between 7 and 8lb plus two carp about 4lb each. In total he had 115 fish - 84 in one session.

But the biggest surprise was a 19lb catfish. All were caught on a Stonze weight fished with method groundbait around it. I used a short Steamlink hooklink with a size 10 or 12 hook and shrink tube to kink the hook over.

My baits ranged from jungle boilies, 10mm tutties, sweetcorn and maggots to plastic corn. I caught by lightly baiting an area in the edge and heavily spooding an area about 70 yards out.



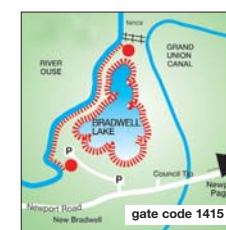
John Cooper's 5 shows how the 'Supa-carp' stocked into Bradwell had more than doubled their weights in less than a season



Paul Weeks' pristine 6-8 tinca



Simon Jackson & 9-4 tench



Dimmocks Pit

DIMMOCKS, near Newton Longville, is small (1.5 acres) but holds some cracking fish!

It has been developed, with Environment Agency help, as a fun fishery with lots of small fish - and a fair head of small carp which are rapidly outgrowing their 'small' tag.

It has its own car park, short walks and 20 or so really solid, comfortable pegs and the front gate is code locked (1415).

A long-established fishery it holds, all the small stuff aside, some superb specimens which would a credit many much larger waters.

Tench over 6, bream of a similar size, double figure pike, the odd very good perch, tackle-testing carp...and the occasional catfish.

It can be a bit weedy at times, but if you carry a drag that need not be too much of a problem - and is part of the reason the fish grow as well as they do.

Open all year & two rods ONLY.



MK Citizen angling writer Roger (Mr Happy) Stratton - above with a 6-4-0 tench and left with a 16 lb pike - loves Dimmocks and was on hand to picture a particularly rare catch, this 11-2-0 cat landed by David Lund



Dimmocks map page 10



Prologic-Enterprize-Ron Thompson-okuma-Nash-DAIWA-Mepps-Shakespeare-Rapala-ABU-Waterline-Shimano-Maver-Drennan-Masterline-Humminbird-ESP-Fox-Flambeau-Pure Fishing

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Lodge... another popular haunt for many



Catering for all tastes - that's this water

Brothers Phil and Rob Waples are typical of Lodge's carpie regulars...they love the place and know its moods inside out. Here they're pictured with a 16 lb mirror and a 15 lb common.

At the other end of the angling spectrum the lake can be a terrific match venue.

In late October last year Team Gilders' Russ Coleman was pegged on the paddock and baited half way across and kept going over with cage feeder and single red maggots. After a little while he began to get bream and had 21 for 58 lbs to win the four-hour club match by a country mile!

That brought a particularly broad grin to Russ' face as shortly after starting he'd been told by MKAA head bailiff Stuart Pemberton - who usually only has to sniff the wind to know whether Lodge will be on or off - had told him that they weren't feeding...

Lodge Lake



It can give you a net-full of roach or a thumping great carp. Then again it might be slab-sized bream or hard fighting tench.

On other days it can be hordes of gudgeon, big perch or a big crucian. Lodge can also be a cracking match venue, specci water or a simple fun fishery with bites galore.

Its heaviest match-weight so far is 27 carp AND 25 bream for 142 lbs!

An all-weather water, it has produced many carp topping 20 in the depths of winter.

Fish it in winter off the H4

bank and you could be in for some superb action.

Various 'exotics' - including koi and goldfish - are also present and were never legally stocked.

PLEASE DON'T be tempted to add to the variety - the risk of unwittingly introducing potentially fatal diseases to the existing stocks is too great to run!

Fishing is from more than 40 permanent pegs and depths vary between 2 & 18 feet.

Most baits work at some time of the year - and don't forget the 'Wilderness' pegs backing onto the badminton centre.



horizonradio
103.3FM - ONLINE

Radio angling presenter Jim Helliar - who produces weekly pod casts (www.horizonmk.co.uk) on the sport in MK - is another Lodge fan.

During one recent night session he bagged 14 bream to 7 lb and 11 carp to 18-6 (pictured left).

The streetlights in the background may not have enhanced the picture but, as with so many fisheries in Milton Keynes, they mean it rarely gets truly dark at Lodge.

If you want to contribute to his pod-casts, email Jim at jim.helliar@capmedia.com or call 01908 591610.

Two rods ONLY at any time on Lodges and traditional close season - March 15 to June 15 inclusive - applies

MKAA's carp stockings - why and how many

By MKAA chairman Trevor Johnson

NOT everyone loves carp - true - but an awful lot do!

If they didn't, tackle shops wouldn't give so much space to the gear and commercial fisheries wouldn't have burst on the scene as they did.

By its very nature MKAA is in the mass-market arena, catering for as many angling tastes as possible.

And carp, especially larger carp, are angling's current rock 'n roll.

It's not that new...30 years ago BW put them in the canal at Simpson and anglers queued up to get at them.

And 20 years ago MKAA added them to Furzton and Lodge...no prizes for guessing which are our most popular waters now!

MKAA is NOT out to make every water a 'pastie puddle'.

We ARE aiming to make Willen, Caldecotte and Bradwell first-class GENERAL fisheries which include carp of all sizes...a lot like Furzton.

We have NOT put ANY in Willen North but did stock the shallow south lake fairly heavily to help control (most years) its prolific weed growth.

Carp in Tear Drops are self-stocks down the brook from Furzton - and provide a lot of fun for a lot of people.

According to bankside gossip and some website forum chatters we are dumping thousands of F1 and F2 hybrids in all over the place.

WRONG. MKAA's fish are bred by Rodbaston College using eggs and milt from parents in the Carp Society's Orchid and Horseshoe lakes.

Very fast growing - potential claimed to be 40 lb in a decade given suitable conditions - they're beautiful, pure strain, fish and fight like fury.

This year we put 105 lb (approx 300 fish) into Wappenham to stir resident stocks up a bit...and recent catches show they're doing just that.

The same day a similar quantity went into 26 acre Bradwell (300 18 months earlier) and hope in the future to follow that with extra tench.

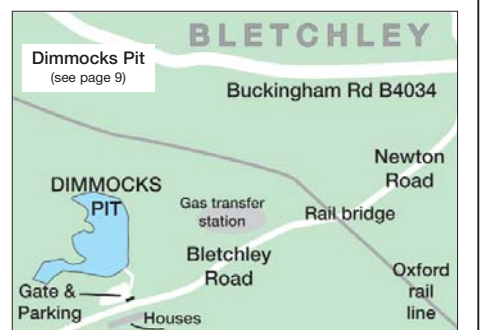
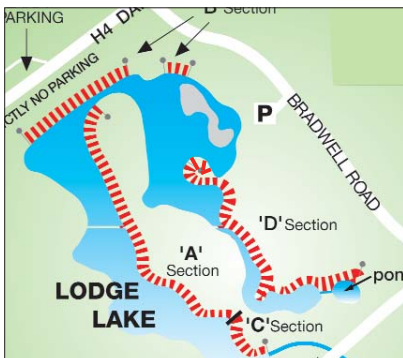
That day also saw around 700 go into 90 acre Caldecotte.

Some time in the future the survivors will be testing lucky anglers' tackle to the limit.

By then those waters will probably be being fished by a lot more people than at present, some of whom will choose to target their other species.



Part of the Caldecotte stocking going into their new home



Want to know more? Call 01908 270000/660579 or 01865 890090

Planting the future

£2,000 Environment Agency grant toward cost of cages

SOME of the money paid in rod licence fees has come back as an EA grant to help improve a local fishery open to all.

The money helped pay for professionals from Aquascience to install 20 wire bank-side pens, or cages – between pegs on the road-side and canal banks of Bradwell Lake – and plant them with lilies.

The idea is that, when established, the caged-areas will provide both larders and refuge from predators such as cormorants and the larger pike.

It should improve the survival rates of most species during their first couple of seasons when they are so vulnerable to predation and lack of suitable food types.

Native white lilies are being used as they're easier to control than the more commonly seen yellow ones.

A) What we're aiming for – well-controlled lily pads (on another water) providing food and shelter for mini-fish **B)** Planting lilies in bags of top soil **C)** Simon actually enjoys being in there making the cages **D)** Steve gets all the good jobs, like positioning the bags of lily rhizomes



Please make special note of these RULES

- No more than 40 lb of fish in a keepnet at ANY time – preferably less!
- No livebait buckets or tubs.
- LIFE BAN for carrying ANY kind of gun – including replicas or BB weapons – on any fishery accessed by an MKAA ticket.

MKAA is trapping signal crays at Lodge and Wappenham to try and reduce the numbers of the alien species present in both waters. The association has both Environment Agency and Parks Trust co-operation and approval and uses only the EA approved type of trap shown above. Unlike the version on sale in some shops, it is made to minimise the risk of water mammals getting in and drowning. Sadly trapping will only limit/reduce cray numbers, not eradicate them.

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01908 313158

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Jakeman's Sports & Tackle
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01296 486613

Carpin Capers
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Northampton NN1 3RL
01604 634115

J & K TACKLE
62/64 Sheep Street
BICESTER OX26 6LG
01869 242589

RULE Re fishing match venues!

● IF a match is booked (see list below) ALL anglers must be OFF that section by the preceding midnight. The ONLY exceptions are for evening events in which case you must be gone by 12 noon on the day of the match.

WILLEN LAKE				
03/08/08	B+C	0700-1400	23/11	ALL 0800-1400
17/08	E+F	0800-1400	26/11	ALL 0800-1400
14/09	B	0700-1300	30/11	ALL ALL DAY
FURZTON LAKE				
20/07/08	B	0800-1500	01/01/09	ALL 0700-1300
29/07	A+B	1700-2200	04/01	ALL ALL DAY
03/08	ALL	0700-1400	11/01	ALL 0800-1500
05/08	C	0900-1600	25/01	ALL 0800-1500
19/08	ALL	ALL DAY	28/01	ALL 0800-1400
20/08	ALL	ALL DAY	08/02	ALL 0800-1500
21/08	ALL	ALL DAY	22/02	ALL 0800-1500
22/08	ALL	ALL DAY	25/02	ALL 0800-1400
23/08	ALL	ALL DAY	01/03	ALL 0800-1400
24/08	ALL	ALL DAY	11/03	ALL 0800-1400
25/08	ALL	ALL DAY	14/03	ALL 0800-1500
08/09	A+B	0700-1400		
07/09	A+B	0800-1400		
10/09	A+B	0800-1400		
21/09	A+B	0800-1400		
27/09	ALL	ALL DAY		

BRADWELL LAKE				
27/07/08	A+B	0800-1300		
17/08	A+B	0800-1400		
27/08	ALL	ALL DAY		
13/09	ALL	ALL DAY		
14/09	ALL	ALL DAY		
TEAR DROPS LAKES				
20/07/08	ALL	0700-1400		
13/08	ALL	0800-1400		
17/08	ALL	0700-1400		
23/08	ALL	ALL DAY		
31/08	2	0800-1500		
17/09	ALL	0800-1400		
28/09	1+2	0800-1300		
12/10	1	0800-1400		
31/12	ALL	0800-1400		

DIMMOCKS PIT				
26/07/08	ALL	ALL DAY		
18/10	ALL	ALL DAY		
29/11	ALL	ALL DAY		
LODGE LAKE				
30/07/08	ALL	0800-1400		
09/08	A+C	1200-1800		
17/08	A+C	0700-1400		
07/09	A	0700-1500		
14/09	ALL	0800-1400		
21/09	A+C	0800-1500		
24/09	ALL	0800-1400		
05/10	ALL	0700-1400		
01/03/09	A	0800-1400		

WAPPENHAM LAKE				
17/08/08	ALL	0700-1300		
23/11	ALL	ALL DAY		
O/U OUZEL				
12/10/08	ALL	ALL DAY		
26/10	ALL	0700-1500		
18/01/09	ALL	0800-1400		
15/02	ALL	0800-1400		

WILLEN OUZEL				
07/12/08	ALL	0900-1400		
11/01/09	ALL	0700-1500		
01/03	ALL	ALL DAY		
SPARKS MEADOW				
28/09/08	ALL	0700-1300		
STONE PARK				
05/10/08	ALL	ALL DAY		
12/10	ALL	0800-1400		
26/10	ALL	0700-1400		
03/11	ALL	0700-1500		
23/11	ALL	0800-1400		
30/11	ALL	0700-1500		
06/12	ALL	0800-1500		
21/12	ALL	0700-1400		
01/01/09	ALL	0700-1400		
11/01	ALL	0800-1500		
25/01	ALL	0800-1500		
08/02	ALL	0800-1500		
22/02	ALL	0800-1500		
14/03	ALL	0800-1500		

WHITINGS FARM				
05/10/08	ALL	ALL DAY		
26/10	ALL	0800-1400		
02/11	ALL	0800-1400		
06/12	ALL	0800-1500		
21/12	ALL	0700-1400		
11/01/09	ALL	0800-1500		
25/01	ALL	0800-1500		
08/02	ALL	0800-1500		
08/02	ALL	0900-1500		
22/02	ALL	0800-1500		
14/03	ALL	0800-1500		

TOOMBS MEADOW				
03/09/08	ALL	0800-1400		
04/10	ALL	1200-1800		
08/10	ALL	0800-1400		
12/10	ALL	0800-1400		
05/11	ALL	0800-1500		
09/11	ALL	0800-1400		

BRADWELL RIVER				
06/12/08	ALL	0800-1500		
25/01/09	ALL	0900-1400		
08/02	ALL	0900-1500		
JEAN HOLLANDS				
04/10/08	ALL	1200-1800		
12/10	ALL	0800-1400		
26/10	ALL	0700-1500		
05/11	ALL	0800-1400		
09/11	ALL	0800-1400		
16/11	ALL	0700-1400		
26/11	ALL	0800-1400		
30/11	ALL	ALL DAY		
06/12	ALL	0800-1500		
12/12	ALL	0800-1400		
14/12	ALL	ALL DAY		
21/12	ALL	0800-1400		
04/01/09	ALL	0800-1500		
11/01	ALL	0800-1500		
21/01	ALL	0800-1400		
25/01	ALL	0800-1500		
01/02	ALL	0800-1400		
01/02	ALL	0700-1400		
04/02	ALL	0800-1400		
08/02	ALL	0800-1500		
18/02	ALL	0800-1400		
22/02	ALL	0800-1500		
25/02	ALL	0800-1400		
11/03	ALL	0800-1400		
14/03	ALL	0800-1500		

CANAL				
27/07/08	3A	0600-1400		
10/08	1A TO 4B	ALL DAY		
24/08	14B TO 15B	0800-1400		
31/08	3A+3B	0700-1300		
07/09	5A TO 9B	ALL DAY		
23/09	11A+11B	0900-1600		
27/09	14B TO 15B	1200-1800		
28/09	13B	0700-1300		
04/10	2B	ALL DAY		
12/10	11A+11B	0600-1400		
26/10	11B	0800-1400		
08/11	8B+9A	ALL DAY		
16/11	3A+3B	0800-1500		
16/11	15B	0700-1300		
30/11	3A	0800-1500		
03/12	3A+3B	0800-1400		
14/12	1A+1B	ALL DAY		
07/01/09	14B+15A	0800-1400		
11/01	11A+1B	0700-1500		
12/01	12A TO 15B	0800-1500		
25/01	12A TO 15B	0800-1500		
01/02	1A+1B	0800-1500		
08/02	12A TO 15B	0800-1500		
15/02	11A	0800-1500		
22/02	3A+3B	ALL DAY		
22/02	12A TO 15B	0800-1500		
29/03	1A+1B	0800-1500		
19/04	3B	0800-1500		
26/04	1A TO 2B	0800-1400		
10/05	3A TO 4B	0800-1400		
24/05	7A TO 8B	0800-1400		
07/06	10A TO 11B	0800-1400		

No bivvies or fry-ups – but they're out 52 weeks a year come rain or shine...

Meet the hard gang!



Bill Lovelock (centre, above) refused to miss out on his weekly veterans' match fix despite it clashing with his 70th birthday...so the rest of the crew made it a day to remember.

Match entry costs are minimal 'cos it is all just for fun.

The best-supported series on the local match scene by a long way, it regularly attracts 35 to 40 people a week from a pool of 70 or more.

Find out more from leader of the pack Terry Valentine (below) on 01908 565446.

Out came a birthday card, bait table, table cloth and cake complete with candles...and for once Bill was lost for words.

That's typical of the camaraderie of the 'Vets' – a self-perpetuating series of Wednesday morning matches for the over 55s.



Canals, rivers and lakes – they go anywhere any time of year whatever the weather: doing their own thing while having a good crack and a bit of banter with like-minded mates.

Think FISH CARE before big bag 'trophy' snaps...

If using a keepnet please stake it out in deeper water – NOT on the rocks or in shallow or hot, low oxygen level, areas.

larger than the legal minimum and to ensure they are fully submerged – preferably in the shade.

Obviously it is better to use nets

More and more people are now putting their catches straight back.

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CODE OF PRACTICE

ANGLERS PLEASE:

THIS code is agreed with British Waterways for the benefit of all with special reference to where boats are moored opposite...ESPECIALLY on the Boatyard!

- Catapulting groundbait is BANNED opposite boats at Boatyard
- DON'T loose feed decks hulls with groundbait, it can cause paint damage. Use pole cup if you must feed close to boats.
- DON'T bounce tackle off boats or tap them with pole tips – chipped paint costs money to repair and hooks in ropes can put innocent people in hospital.
- DO minimise noise, including bite alarms, especially when people on boats are trying to sleep.
- Do be discrete when answering the call of nature

BOATERS PLEASE:

- DON'T when moored run engines or disturb the water in any way while people are fishing.
- DO keep to the centre of the channel and within the speed limit (4 mph) when cruising.
- DO moor well clear of anglers, on the towpath side, where users have priority on first come first served basis.

ANGLERS AND BOATERS

- DO behave reasonably and courteously at all times.
- DON'T leave litter or light fires.
- PLEASE DO keep children and dogs under control.

So much variety - and all in the same river

Around Stony Stratford...

The Ouse looping around the north of Stony Stratford is a good mixed fishery which can provide brilliant sport.

Chunky roach of a pound aren't that uncommon and the bream can touch 8!

Tackle testing chub and silver flashing dace are more common in the faster stretches while pike and hefty perch can be found throughout.

The latter, probably feeding on crayfish, can top 4 lb and a season or three back a match was won with 8 perch for more than 15 lb, all on worm, on Brush Mill.

There's even the odd tench...and the four hour match record is 78 lb of slab-sided bream to 7-13-0.

From the Calverton Road picnic area (no swimming) and boat slipway down to Stony weir is free fishing. Then it's Brush Mill all the way to the new houses - the backwater can fish in times of flood - then Holland's Field for one field to the top of Toombs' which curves round to the Old Stratford river bridge on the V4 Watling Street.

Below that is no go unless you have a Deanshanger & The Stratfords' card, then it's back to MKAA with fast flowing Wolverton Mill section.



Neil Atkins - proud holder of the new MKAA barbel record with this magnificent 19-4. Where did he catch it? Well, it WAS an MKAA river section and NOWHERE near the fabled Adams Mill...

and Ravenstone

Ravenstone Mill is still among the foremost club-ticket big barbel fisheries in the country - let alone on the Ouse.

Fish up to the 17 lb-ish have been reported...and it's a fair bet there are larger ones yet to be caught. But it's more than a big whiskers



Not everyone likes pike, but Mike Sando does. And this 13 lb Ouse worm-grabber gave him a real scrap when it snaffled a bait intended for chub.

water. There are good chub, certainly into the sixes, bream, monster pike, dace and fine perch.

Downstream of the weir the river is fast and streamy (great for stalking) while the deeper water upstream can yield big carp washed out of river-side

lakes. Like most of the Ouse it can be rather weedy in summer, but forcing your way through the vegetation and casting between the weeds works.

Watch out for undercut banks and, if in the water, sudden drop offs into unexpectedly deep holes.

Tales from the riverbanks...

Fishing a match on a flooded Stone Park, Abbey Lads' Dave Smith persevered with a 14m pole and lob worm in a small far bank eddy.

Bagging five perch over 2 lb plus some others to win with 15-15-0, he said: "I love it when we go down there, something good always turns up."

All the top MKAA Christmas match weights came from Toombes Meadow on a river rising following overnight rain.

Just up from the Old Stratford Bridge Olney's Eddie Ford used feeder to bag 40-14-0 of bream, chub, perch...and an unseasonal tench.

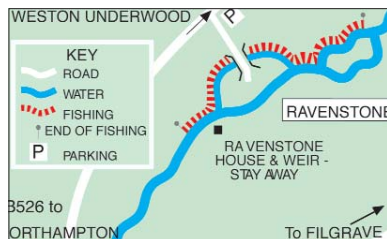
Upstream on the back-straight Calvert AC's Pete Whatley took second with 15-8-0 perch while at the next peg Graeme

Taylor had 11-6-0. Austin Maddocks had 9-14-0 of roach.

The end-of-season Grand Slam saw DATS' Paul Chapman win with 13-0-0 which included a 4-2-0 perch and 5-9-0 chub from Brush Mill.

Gary Spavins (Amphill) had 11-2-0, Olney's Eddie Ford 10-11-8 and Alan Hursey, Linford, 9-5-0 at the peg upstream of 'Stratford bridge.

Trout fishing?
Ringstead Grange
01933 622960
at Ringstead in East Northants



Obituary Sadly Barry Beales passed away in January 2008. Known to a great many members during the early days of MKAA, he was a larger-than-life character and a prominent member of Tesco AC in the days when that club controlled Ravenstone. He was rarely happier than when fishing that particular water.



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- And more

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...AND KEEPING THE RUNNING OF...



Harrold Ouse & the Ivel

MKAA season ticket-holders have access to about three-quarters of a mile of the Biggleswade Ivel at Manor Farm courtesy of an arrangement with CEMEX Angling.

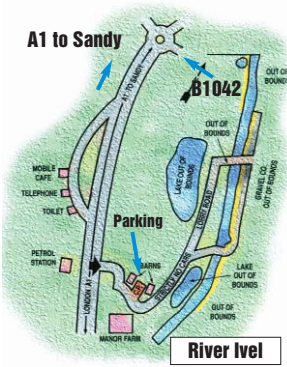
It has a fair flow with chub, roach, dace and bream and is not unlike natural bank sections of the local River Ouzel.

The Ouse at Harrold Lodge Farm is again via RMC and shared with Wellingborough club anglers. It holds some nice roach and bream and can go well on waggler or feeder with regular loose feeding usually helping rather than hindering.

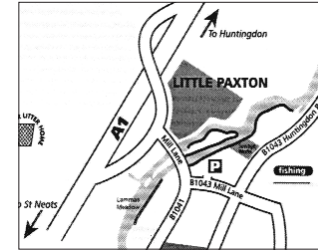
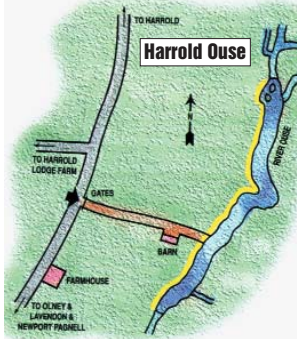
- Night fishing is NOT allowed on either venue.

Please enjoy these waters but remember that we are guests on them and, as such, should be on our very best behaviour while there.

- Please also remember that ALL English streams and rivers are subject by law to a March 15 to June 15 (inclusive) close season.

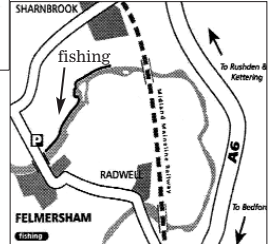


...and more on the Ouse, too



Little Paxton Mill Meadow (above) parking: can be by the raised path or at the designated car park inside Rowleys allotments. Chapman's Farm parking is along the roadside and walk to the sewage works. Lamas Meadow parking in the carpark at junction of B1043 & B0141, cross road and use footpath to river.

As part of the same deal you can also get to fish on the Middle Ouse at Little Paxton, a fishery which has produced 60 lb bream catches in local matches. If taking advantage of the arrangement please be on your best behaviour as we are guests on these waters.



Old Father Thames (& others)

The waters around Oxford are something special and, generally, only an hour's drive from MK.

But please be on your best behaviour. These waters are made available to MKAA members courtesy of North Oxford Angling Society and MUST be treated with the UT-MOST RESPECT.

- The Thames, Cherwell, Seacourt Stream and even the Oxford Canal have characters of their own, and the arrangement for MKAA members to fish these NOAS waters helps make your association card a winner.

There are also Oxford and District AA waters which can be fished on dayticket. Want to know more? Call NOAS's Andy Crisp, on 01865 53800.

- MKAA members can't hold matches on NOAS waters and NIGHT FISHING is NOT allowed on their waters.

If you use this system please be a good MKAA ambassador...you are a guest on someone else's patch.

CHERWELL (approx 1 mile)

Access West bank from Marston Ferry Link Road B4495 (see OS map for route from A34 Peartree interchange) from either cycle track or footpath shown; downstream of bridge (access from bridge) one meadow; upstream three meadows. East bank: upstream two meadows above Victoria pub; and downstream to park boundary fence opposite Wolfson College.

THAMES (approx 3.5 miles)

Access from Wolvercote to Wytham bridge (see OS map) park in the Wolvercote Bathing Place public car park (river downstream can be fished on ODAA day ticket).

Parking NOT allowed in Trout Inn (great food) car park unless with specific permission of landlord. Access to King's Lock end

from "University Field Station" (see Seacourt Stream map) and top end of Pixey Meadow via bridges over the lock and King's Weir. Parking alongside A34 — and crossing it on foot — NOT recommended.

SEACOURT STREAM (approx 3.5 miles)

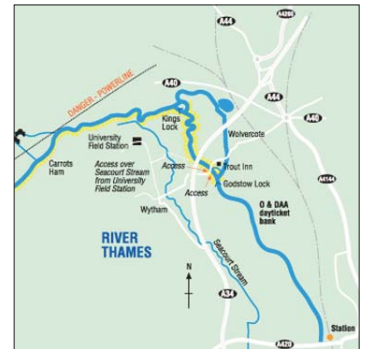
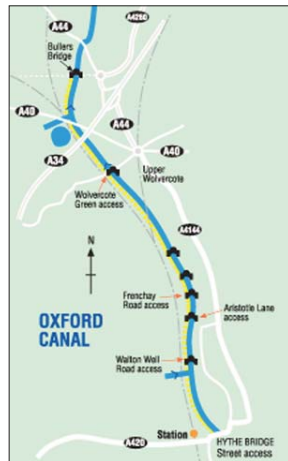
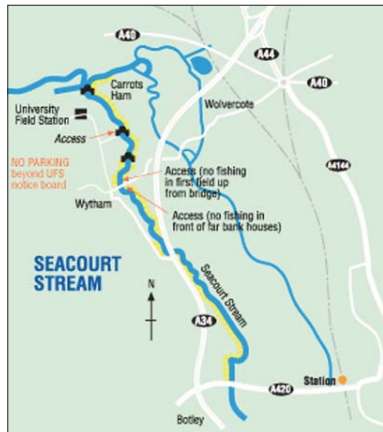
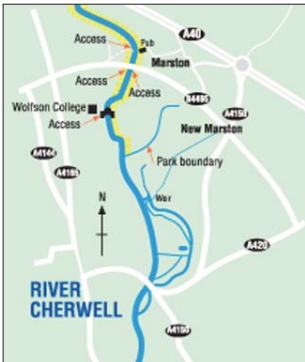
Access from Wolvercote to Wytham Village road bridge (see OS map). East bank: NO fishing opposite far bank houses (south side of bridge) and NO fishing in first

meadow (north side of bridge).

Access also from track leading to University Field Station. Follow road from Wolvercote into Wytham and turn right, take track towards UFS, park on verge just BEFORE notice board (no parking or turning beyond it). Walk across field to stream. Crossing bridge over stream gives access to Kings Lock/Kings Weir Thames area.

OXFORD CANAL (approx 4.5 miles)

Fishing towpath side from Hythe Bridge Street in Oxford, north to Bullers Bridge in Yarm Lane, Kiddlington and Plough Inn at Wolvercote good access points for first time visitors.



Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast
Lincoln Lodge (on the Tove just north of Milton Keynes)
01908 510152

For more about MKAA, its waters & how to join, call: Trevor Johnson 01908 270000, Stuart Pemberton 01908 660579 or Bob Final 01865 890090

Tickets: £32 standard season (£24 from secs of affiliated clubs). Juniors, reg disabled, senior citizens £16 (£12)

Daytickets: on the bank: £5 (£2.50 for concessions).

or write to: MKAA, PO Box 3195, Milton Keynes, MK3 6ZY
or...go to our website – www.mkaa.co.uk – where you can join on-line at no extra cost.

Geoffrey Leaver Solicitors
of Central Milton Keynes
01908 692769

Are proud to have assisted MKAA in their purchase of Bradwell Lake & to handle the Association's legal affairs.

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also: Trophies & engraving plus CYCLES & accessories

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...THEM IN LOCAL HANDS.

You want chub - have WE got **BIG** chub!

Judging by the past couple of seasons...it won't be long before MKAA's Ouse around Wolverton and New Bradwell gives up its first recorded 8+ chub!

In seemingly no time at all hopes of 6s have been replaced by expectations of several 7s a year - with the magic 8 now always on the cards.

Curling around the two old towns, the Ouse is generally shallowish, pacy, and full of surprises.

Wolverton Mill (upstream of the Galleon canal aquaduct) Whittings (down to the Haversham railway viaduct) and Stone Park (on downstream to New Bradwell) and behind Bradwell Lake can, on their day, produce sport Mr Crabtree would have lusted after.

Barbel, introduced by MKAA well over a decade ago, have flourished and Wolverton Mill, probably the shallowest of all our

sections, has produced them up to 15 lb. Whittings also holds barbel but is better known for its huge chub, big bream, perch, roach and pike. The abominable signal crayfish is also present.

Stone Park - now having produced the association's current and previous chub records at 7-8-0 and 7-12-0 - also has big whiskers and can occasionally produce roach nets of 30 lb or more, along with some nice-sized dace.

Pike are present all the way through and can make 20 lb, while there are big fat perch and hefty river bream.

Just about any bait can have its day. Take your rod and go stalk the stalk...

Tove & Ouzel

Small in size...but big on fish, that's these little rivers - both Great Ouse tributaries.

They offer year-round sport with everything from gudgeon to carp with fish worthy of far larger rivers.

They can turn out roach to 2 lb, 7 lb bream, perch of 4 - or perhaps more - and pike on the 20 mark.

You might also hook a tench, an escapee trout, or amuse yourself with dace, gudgeon and bits, while on the Ouzel (especially behind Willen Lake) you might latch into a 10 lb barbel.

On the **TOVE** MKAA has four fields at Castlethorpe's Lincoln Lodge Farm (long walk but worth it) where really big chub and perch can be had if you are into stalking.

The long Field (half a mile of bank and upstream of the Cosgrove/Castlethorpe road) seems to be a long series of fish-holding swims - see *Ian Welch's chub back page*.

On the magical **OUZEL**, you can fish from Sparkes Meadow (just north of the Fenny bypass) downstream to the Watling Street, and then from alongside Caldecotte Lake most of the way - LEFT hand bank - through Milton Keynes past the OU and Willen Lake to the M1 bridge and, from there, switch to the RIGHT hand bank for one field downstream of the M1.

A Royal Mail winter match behind the OU saw weights of 20-8-0, 18-12-0 and 15-8.

Travel light - a bike helps cover more swims in a day - and have fun!

IF YOU see fish, dead, in distress, or other pollution signs (or fish theft) call the EA emergency-line Free AND quickly - and please tell MKAA, too

0800 80 70 60

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Mark Harrison should look happy. His home-made tasty paste lured this 7-6 + two 4s in an after-work session



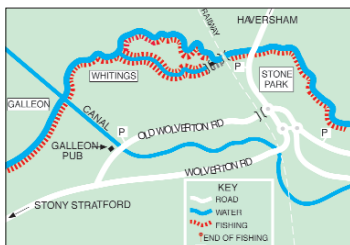
Trevor Johnson with a June 16th 5-13 which would go (he said) 6+ in winter. Old fashioned worm did the trick.



MKAA chub-record holder Lee Whittington (pic of his 7-12 on front page) with a Wolverton Ouse 7-2.



Jon Cooper with summer time 5+



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Goodbye to a good man - one of angling's best

Ken was the founding force behind Milton Keynes Angling Association - back in 1970 - a trend-setter among a new generation of angling bodies set up to meet the, then, unique situation of a new city being built in a largely rural area.

It is a tribute to his foresight and determination that it has gone on to become one of the larger, more successful and influential angling clubs in the country.

It wasn't always easy. Having moved up from London, he used

to recall: "It must have been 20 years before some folk stopped wondering if I was secretly a scout for the LAA."

An engineer by trade he had done national service with the Parachute Regiment and took his para's feet-first training into angling administration - an approach helping him win many early political skirmishes.

Then diametrically opposed to the national establishment of angling, he eventually became - on his own terms - part of it...and was elected president of the NFA in 1992, holding that post until 2004. Prior to that he had served two years as an NFA vice president, and was still Eastern Region chairman at the time of his death in February this year.

During his time as NFA president he led moves to increasingly professionalise its operation and oversaw acquisition of its wholly-owned headquarters - probably the

Ken Ball 1932 -2008 MKAA founding chairman and guiding hand

most financially stable period in its modern history. He was also in the vanguard, with positive effect, of the trend to work with - rather than to just shout at - national government and governmental bodies the likes of the NRA, EA and British Waterways.

He also developed a reputation for working to resolving disputes within the sport, using a logical approach and a determination to be fair to all - something which did not always go down too well with some of those who had wanted things all their own way.

Though in angling politics he was not a true politician...tending to go for what he believed was right rather than what was most easily achievable and popular.

Up until the time he went into hospital Ken, though 'retired' from national angling

administration, was still active as MKAA president, and representing both it and the Upper Ouse Fisheries Consultative Association at meetings, particularly with the Environment Agency, all over the country.

His proudest moments in angling included MKAA being promoted to Division One in 1990 - also winning the junior national that year - and in 2003 when the association hosted a Ladies World Championships on Furzton.

Current MKAA chairman Trevor Johnson, who knew Ken for 36 years, said: "Like life, angling is full of people who say THEY should do this, THEY should change that. Ken was one in a million - and that's not too much of an exaggeration - who would say 'That needs changing...let's get in there and do it.'"

"A great many disagreed with him from time to time - including myself - but very few ever questioned his integrity.

"He was almost universally respected as an honest bloke who gave his all for angling. The sport is undoubtedly the poorer for his passing.



"His sense of humour was irrepressible and, less than 48 hours before he died he rang from hospital and said: 'Just calling to let you know I am still alive, fella.' Given the circumstances even I was struggling for a suitable reply to that."

Ken is survived by his widow, Pauline, daughters and grandchildren.

Writing his own farewell to Ken in Tackle & Guns, its proprietor David Hall head-lined it simply: "Death of a decent man." That about says it all...



Left: Chiltern Tackle boss Charlie Green, a friend of Ken's from the early days, shows the first MKAA ticket (1970-'71 season) which cost 50p and was launched by Ken with the words "Give us 10 bob and we will try to get you some fishing." The area-rod licence displayed with it cost just 25p!

INVESTING TIME, MONEY AND LOTS OF EFFORT IN WORKING...

For angling's next generations



MKAA has been investing heavily for some years in building up its youth development and competitive youth team activities.

The aim is simple: to encourage youngsters to come into the sport and help them learn how to fish properly and how to get the most out of it.

They, after all, are its future.

And the association is grateful for the help and support of its partner organisations - including the Environment Agency, MK Parks Trust, local tackle shops, British Waterways and the NFA - and the dedicated coaches giving up their time, and their own fishing, to make it all happen.

Teach-ins come-and-try sessions, fun matches, team events around the country, national championships, and coaching for the disabled of all ages are all part of the scene.

But it wouldn't happen if the qualified volunteer coaches delivering the training weren't prepared to go back to the classroom to gain their qualifications...and then put in hours and hours of sometimes patience testing, but sometimes incredibly rewarding, time on the banks.

Anyone wanting to know more about what is provided - or how they can do their bit to help - should contact youth development officer Nuala Gray on MK 320007, youth team manager Ian Greenwood MK 503587 or officer for the disabled Larry Harris on MK 675766.



■ MKAA's youth competitive sides travel the length and breadth of England in pursuit of their sport - and they couldn't do it all without outside financial help, for which they're grateful. Not for the first time, they won this year's British Waterways canal championships at Tring. But they also held local matches to encourage newcomers, and the winners of such an event fished on Lodge Lake are pictured with match sponsor, MK Angling Centre boss Brian Haynes.

■ Happy 9 year-old Jack Salisbury with a big canal perch, caught on 3 metre whip during one of lead-coach Nuala Gray's teach-ins on the canal.



His non-fishing dad, David, wrote in to say: "I'd like to say a huge thank you. Your patience and enthusiasm has been instrumental in putting that beaming smile on my son's face."



■ Poles, whips, feeder and float rods, reels and rigs galore! MKAA's Nuala Gray with just some of the £1,500 worth of tackle provided, in a year, by the Environment Agency for use by local angling coaches. Thanks folks.

Tiny Tove's thumping rod benders!

Turning the scales to 5-3-0 - and with plenty of growing left to do - this chub caught on a bitter cold winter's day by Angler's Mail resident columnist, and fishery scientist, Dr Ian Welch gives a clue to just how big fish in the tiny Tove can grow.

Ian had this splendid fish and several others on his first visit to the water: fishing shrimp and prawn boilie while pole-cupping crumbled boilies into his 'far'-bank swim.

Most species thrive in MKAA's Castlethorpe section and, at one time or another, will take most types of bait.

Corn, maggot, caster, worm and bread all have their day as do thawed-out prawns. (Tip: microwave them for 30 seconds at full power to toughen against crays - any longer and they burst all over the oven...one hell of a mess!).

