

Verulam Fisheries . . .

Riverside Road

IN THE 1960s, not having a long-term secure fishery in St Albans, we literally dug this fishery out of disused watercress beds. Since then we have extended the area to what you see today and it has become the club's prime local water.

It is very popular with the members being so very local and having easy access for juniors and our less active members.

The fishery contains Roach over 2lb, crucians over 3lb, tench, bream over 4lb and a good head of carp to double figures. There are no pike.

Over the last couple of seasons, we've had major problems with crayfish and sport had also deteriorated, perhaps as a result. However, last year we spent a considerable sum removing over 1,000lb of them.

Continuing with this policy during 2004 along with extra stocking, we aim to make this fishery our prime water once again.

Trout fishing is available during the coarse close season. Any trout caught during the coarse season must immediately be returned to the water unharmed.

Tingrith

WE HAVE an arrangement with these excellent commercial lakes just north of Luton.

Basically, if you pay for three visits, you get the fourth one free.

Well worth a go!

Further details can be found on Tingrith's website.

Frogmore

THIS VENUE situated between St Albans and Radlett (not to be confused with the LAA waters) is also a long established fishery.

Low water levels every year caused problems and in 1996 came to a head. We have since imported clay to stop this and have redesigned lakes. This seems to have solved our problems and the fishery has now reverted to its former glory.

A substantial stocking policy is being implemented to augment existing stock.

One of the two pools is now a match lake, stocked with carp, which will be open to all members when not in use. Further stocking is planned. This fishery is open all year.

Last year we excavated a further two lakes which we hope will come on-line over the next year or two. The plan is for one to be a trout lake, the other, to the rear of the fishery an all-purpose venue.

The VAC is proud of its fisheries. We believe we offer a superb selection giving members virtually all the variation they could wish for.

The fisheries details here given will show that we are not a club to sit on our laurels... If work needs to be done, it gets done! If waters need stocking, it gets stock!

But it all costs money; your money! We are not the cheapest club around, but we do believe we offer the best value for your subscription at around £1 per week.

Read on and see if you agree . . .

River Ivel

IT IS due to our reputation, that we have been offered a stretch of this river near Sandy.

Early reports say that this is a hard nut to crack, but well worth the effort especially in Winter when the Summer weed has died off. Good chub, roach, carp and some nice pike are reported along with bags of quality bream.

We have also become members of the Ivel Protection Association which gives members access to over six miles of the river in the Biggleswade area.

Barbel and chub show up particular well here with the former reaching a fantastic 16lb last season and the latter around 6lb.

Constant effort is being made to improve the number of silver fish which, like in most rivers, have declined in recent years. There are, however, still quality roach to be found.

Smallford

THE LARGEST of our two gravel pits Smallford is just off the St Albans to Hatfield road approximately halfway between the two.

Available all year, it has some deep water, over 30ft in some places, though there are some shallow banks.

Well established this fishery is available all year and has fished particularly well over recent seasons. It contains excellent carp and pike, both species topping 20lb regularly and a carp of 41lb has recently been stocked. Tench are plentiful with fish over 6lb taken every season. There is a good head of quality roach (2lb 10oz the best reported) together with perch, bream, some excellent rudd and occasional crucians.

This is the only VAC controlled still-water fishery where night fishing is permitted, and is strictly controlled.

Felmersham

THE LARGEST of our two fisheries on the Ouse is Felmersham, some nine miles north of Bedford.

The club now holds approximately two miles of river including meadows, spinney and islands.

These variations offer a good choice of fishing from deep slow runs to fast shallows where the barbel and chub hang out.

On a not too warm summer's day Felmersham is hard to beat - idyllic even.

Prolific weedgrowth has been a problem over recent seasons and with the river taking a recent natural divert, one meadow is now very weedy.

Early this year, much work was done in the spinney to make the swims more accessible which had become an increasing problem over the years.

Arguably, the venue comes into its own during the autumn an early winter when the roach fishing can be superb. There is a good head of decent chub, dace, bream and even some tench! Barbel are becoming more frequent with fish to 13lb being taken recently.

Radwell

SPLIT INTO three sections, Radwell, two miles nearer than Felmersham, has two fast sections with a slower deeper area above the railway viaduct.

Sport on the faster beats means dace, roach, chub and barbel (12lb the best last season). Good bags of chub have always been a feature with one member taking 33 in one session.

This fishery is situated on the opposite bank to a substantial section of the Vauxhall stretch and one only has to look at their match results in the angling press to see what the water can produce.

It has to be said that one section of our bank is difficult to fish, with high reeds to negotiate, but steps are being taken to help the situation.

Marford Farm

WHAT CAN I say about Marford Farm. Situated on the River Lee just outside Wheathampstead on the road to Welwyn Garden City it is a superb fishery with almost a mile of bank.

Quality roach are taken in good bags, barbel to 8lb have been taken more and more frequently due to stocking by the EA. There are also carp, chub, dace and perch over 3lb.

It should be mentioned here that the club was only able to take control of this fishery because of the amount of litter that was left when it was open to the public.

Thus it should be noted that we

are very hot on members not leaving rubbish lying around. Please note that the club rules state "a member is responsible for the litter in his swim" whether it is his or not.

Leasey Bridge

IS THE club's freehold fishery situated on the River Lee near Harpenden.

After an impressive start to our ownership, when good roach were often taken, the fishery deteriorated to the point where it was rarely used.

Several seasons ago, the fisheries committee and the EA have put much effort into restoring this short stretch and a back-water has been created to provide both, extra swims and a fish holding area.

During 1996 it, once again, became a popular venue for members. Recent catches have been chub to over 5lb and 20lb bags of roach with specimeners over 2lb and barbel to 6lb.

Lea Anglers Consortium

THE VAC now has an arrangement with the LAC whereby all our members can fish some 20 miles of the River Lee.

The LAC was formed to improve the quality of both river and fish on these popular venues and gives VAC members more waters than they could ever hope to fish.

There are rumours that fishing on the Lea is poor, but to those who know the river, that is certainly not the case.

Large bags of quality fish are regularly reported including 160lb bag of bream, roach and perch recorded by a 15 year old! A roach of 2lb 10oz was also reported.

The only cost to you, is the purchase of a Fishery Handbook direct from the LAC administrator.

Turnford Lakes

WE HAVE recently joined a consortium of clubs to fish four excellent lakes in the north of the Lea Valley. Sport is reported as very good and one lake even has big catfish.

It will be interesting to see what our members manage to extract from these superb waters.

Again, there is no extra cost to members to fish Turnford -- it's all included in your subs.

London Anglers Association

WHILST, it has to be said, the LAA are not the organisation they were 30 years ago, they still retain the rights of many super fisheries and at around £31 per year for a senior, is still good value