

NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB BULLETIN



NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB BULLETIN

VOLUME 21

NUMBER 6

CONTENTS

PAGE

EDITORIAL

1

CHAIRMAN'S PAGE(S)

2 - 4

OVERHEARD DURING 1983/1984

5

N.A.S.A. NEWSLINE

6

COVER :- KEITH SYKES (why not - he paid for them?)

EDITORIAL

Well, this is my first attempt at putting together a Bulletin. I feel very disappointed at it but in the circumstances, it's the best I can do.

At the AGM, I was informed that I should have about five articles from Dave Walker and a couple from Kevin Stevenson plus a few others. Despite going through all the bump that Dove Walker passed over to me after the AGM, I cannot find any and therefore I am publishing just what I have which is not very much. Therefore unless you lot out there put your pens to work, this will be your last Bulletin for some time.

All items for Bulletins to be sent to me as soon as possible. I require all members to submit at least two articles per year but one per month would be better. You all have plenty to say at meetings so put your thoughts down onto paper.

This last edition for 1984 is a bit rushed due to my moving only this week and with trying to get straight and keeping up with end of term exams at school, I am not yet organised. Therefore future Bulletins can only get better - can't they????? If you expect me to give up several evenings per month for your entertainment then it cannot be too much to expect you to support me by producing material and keeping me informed with material for the Newsletter.

Enough of being negative. With the facilities I have at home and at school, there is no reason that we cannot produce a great set of Bulletins in 1985 - Volume 22 no less.

Now that I am settled in my home I would welcome any of you to pop in on your way to the meres or Bolo or wherever this way. I am gradually getting to know a few waters to try next year. This is the time of year to rethink on next years eeling campaign. If I were still in Peterborough - there would be no problem. I would be fishing with Pete and Dave, concentrating in the close season on Fenland Fisheries in the hope of copying last years exceptional results. It is a rare feeling to fish a water and be disappointed when you do not get at least one eel over three pounds every session. Fenland Fisheries has that potential, particularly in May. It is an excellent venue for a Whit Trip with six lakes available, gravel pits, about 8 - 10 feet deep, very weedy in the summer and of sizes ranging from 1 to 50 acres. My first season there was very frustrating as you read in my previous articles on the fishery. However we now appear to have it sussed. The big eels are produced very early on. After June, very few are produced.

I now have to spend some time in Shropshire looking for a similar venue. However I am planning trips to the meres with the Whitemere Bunch and other midland waters with Dave Walker and John Sidley.

Sincere best wishes to all of you for 1985 and do have a very enjoyable Xmas.

Brian Crawford

CHAIRMAN'S PAGE.

I hope that you have all now received your November Newsletter which for those of you who did not attend gives brief details of the A.G.M held on the 18th. November. The venue was at a bar/restaurant at which Brian (formerly of the Falconers Public House) is mine host. I am sure all eleven of us who attended the meeting plus the one guest will agree that as usual Brian's hospitality was very good indeed. I presume that we will be having the Spring Meeting at the same venue, and I hope that we can have a full turn-out.

This year's A.G.M. saw the lowest attendance of any meeting since I have been involved in the Club. I am sure all the members who made the long trip to the A.G.M. arrived in despondent mood, bearing in mind the state of the Club. Although of course the situation could not have been righted during the course of the meeting, all members left with a little more hope. One very important appointment was made at the A.G.M. and that was of Brian Crawford as General Secretary (also Bulletin Editor and Treasurer); I am sure that now we have Brian in the driving seat the administration of the Club will get back to its healthy state and we will receive a regular supply of Newsletters and Bulletins. We have now got the whole winter to mull over what we want and are prepared to put back into the National Anguilla Club, and I would urge all those members who seem to do nothing but pay their subscriptions to show some commitment to the members who make the effort to ensure that the Club continues in existence. If you are not prepared to make any effort then I suggest your subscription would be better spent elsewhere.

We have a new batch of provisional members to whom we should be showing the way. They feel that it is worthwhile joining the Club, although to be frank bearing in mind our showing over the last eight months, I find it difficult to see why.

I don't wish to appear to be predicting doom, but if all members do not pull their weight I cannot see any future whatsoever for the Club. I am sure that you are all going to prove me wrong.

I have been retained by Ernie Orme as his legal advisor and publicity consultant, and therefore wish to notify you that he has opened what I am led to believe is an exceptionally fine tackle shop in Runcorn called The Anglers Den. He stocks absolutely every item you may need, as well as plenty of clothing. I believe he is prepared to offer discounts to Club members and before buying any tackle I suggest that you contact Ernie who is quite willing to send goods through the post providing they are reasonable in size.

Ernie is very excited about his new venture and I wish him well on behalf of the Club and all its members.

I have recently moved house and for those of you who are interested now reside high up in the Pennines at Higher Harding Farm, Red Lane, Sutton, Macclesfield, SK11.0NA (telephone Sutton2886). Visitors would be most welcome but I should warn you that it is probably difficult to get to in the height of winter as I am living on or about the Pennine snow-line. One of my first visitors the other Sunday was Ernie Orme and his wife who I think were quite impressed with the view from my front windows. Ernie was very concerned to leave before it got dark as I understand he wished to get back before the sun set to his coffin full of Transylvanian dirt where he spends every night. I have got some reasonable coarse fishing within close distance in reservoirs and in the river Dane and have two trout reservoirs (fly only) within half a mile from my home.

At the A.G.M. discussion took place regarding particular avenues that members of the Club could explore fishing-wise during the next season. Arthur Sutton made some interesting observations about winter eel fishing and the number of large eels that have been caught by anglers dead-baiting for pike. This has certainly given me some room for thought and I would urge members to try to give winter eel fishing a bash, even if its only once or twice perhaps for the odd hour or two.

You should by now have received your copy of the N.A.S.A. magazine which to my mind improves with every edition. Why is it though that the articles one reads in the magazine on eel fishing are not written by Club members? We have certainly got the ability in the Club to write, one only has to look at the recent books and chapters in books contributed by Brian Crawford and Dave Holman and the recent series of articles in the Anglers Mail by Terence Jefferson. Terry Jefferson's article in the latest Bulletin was one of the best I have read in recent times, and I would suggest to him that he may like to submit a shortened version to N.A.S.A. for them to consider publication in the next issue of the magazine.

I hope that this little piece is included in a Bulletin which reaches you before Christmas and therefore would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Finally I will repeat that I would be only too glad to receive letters or telephone calls from any member who wishes to voice his opinions to me. It may well be that a member does not feel like airing his views through the Newsletter or the Bulletin, but would wish them to be known, in which case please do not hesitate to contact me as that is an important part of my Chairman's job.

Mark Davies.

P.S. Could I thank all those members at the A.G.M. who had sufficient faith in me to elect me as Chairman for another term of office. I hope that I can repay this support by leading the Club into another successful decade.

OVERHEARD DURING 1983/1984

1. Head Bailiff to Poacher
"It aint good enough, mate, to say you have a season ticket with MACFISHERIES."
2. Worried angler to doctor
"How can my wife be pregnant when I've been away fishing for twelve months?"
Doctor
"Its what we know in the profession as a grudge birth. In other words, someone had it in for you...."
3. Conductor on bus to angler
"Phew, I know its not 'Channel No 7', so what is it?"
Angler
"Pilchard oil mate. I spilt it in my bag."
4. Brian Crawford, lone member on Club Trip (again), to Bailiff
"The others? They are all on a boating holiday in the Sargasso Sea."
5. Alan Mitchell to Water Authority Bailiff
"Of course we all have rod licences. We also have a duplicating machine."
6. Angler to shady tackle dealer
"I didn't say your bait was not fresh. I merely asked how much your bluebottles were this week."
7. Unemployed Ernie Orme to tackle dealer
"How much are your maggots?"
Dealer
"One pound twenty a pint."
Ernie
"I meant each..."
8. Anglers' son to his father
"Dad, do you take precautions?"
Angler
"Sure do son. Always wash my hands after baiting up and never ever touch dyed maggots..."
9. Why did Frankie go to Hollywood
Because Two Tribes wanted him to Relax in the Pleasuredrome.
10. Mark Davies
"Why was the turn out at the 1984 AGM so poor?"
Dave Walker
"Because we thought Brian would be bringing his WHOPPER - EH..."
11. Terry Jefferson to Jon (his wife for those who don't know)
"Do you fancy coming on the club trip this year?"
Jon
"Eh Terry, what, on my SHOPPER?"

N.A.S.A. NEWSLINE

Recent organisations affiliating to NASA include the new Catfish Conservation Group and the Tenchfishers. This makes nearly all the single species groups fully committed to supporting NASA.

NASA membership continues to grow and should pass the 1500 mark in early 1985. This may not sound a lot but remember there were only about 400 members two years ago and subs have increased several times. To gain members NASA has to give value for money in return. This it does to a large extent with the issues of Specialist Angler mag and Bulletins. It is currently involved in actively supporting the 'Save the Avon' and 'Save the Severn' campaigns.

The NASA Record Fish List is now being supported by all serious big fish specialist anglers in the country. In 1984 new records were accepted for bream (2) at 15lb 6oz, tench at 10lb 10oz, perch at 4lb 14oz 12dr, orfe at 5lb 2oz, and currently claims for another perch of 4lb 15oz is being considered together with a grass carp of 12lbs 8oz.

Kevin Severson is the Distribution Officer for NASA with the special responsibility for sending out magazines and Bulletins so if you do not receive one drop him a line. NASA is currently producing over 3000 magazines per editions and we expect to sell about half at cover price. If any of you have ideas for future Mag articles please do send them to Bruno.

Arthur Sutton brought to NASA's attention the fact that a night fishing ban was being considered from the Lea Vally. NASA has taken immediate appropriate action and will be monitoring the situation.

NASA will be sending delegates to the 1985 NFA Conference to be held in Skegness and will be proposing that the per capita levy be raised from 26p to 40p.

NASA now has active regions in most areas of the country, if you require details of your nearest region or how to form one, contact Steve Tytherley, the NASA Regional Coordination Officer. For anyone involved or wishing to be involved in Water Authority Consultatives, contact Pete Haywood, the NASA Consultative Coordination Officer. All addresses are in Specialist Angler 4. If you have not had SA4 by now - contact Kevin.

I was very surprised by the negative turn out by NAC members for the NASA London Region Conference on December 3rd at Chelsea College. It was an excellent event but should have had more support.

I hope more members will be attending the 1985 NASA Conference at Loughborough University, 22nd - 24th March. Full details in your latest copy of Specialist Angler Magazine.

Remember there is a Letters page in each edition of Specialist Angler - its there for you to say your piece so why not use it?

Finally, on behalf of the NASA Executive Committee, we wish all members of the National Anguilla Club a very happy Christmas and the hope that 1985 gives you all the fish you hope for.

Brian Crawford

