



# Luton Angling Club

## Spring Newsletter 2010

### New Car Park for Lavendon Mill

As you know the Club is committed to improving its venues and the facilities on offer for its members. Those of you that fish Lavendon Mill will know that the current roadside parking arrangements are far from ideal. Following negotiations with the landowners we are pleased to announce that permission has been granted for us to construct an off road gated and fenced car park in the field by the Dutch barn. There is plenty of space and parking should be created for around 10 vehicles. The gate will be secured by a Club lock and chain.

We need volunteers on the 8th and 9th May to help with the building of the new car park. As usual if you can help out please let Joanne Edwards know via phone on (01582) 603466 or (07903) 048280 or send an email to joanne.edwards@lutonac.org

### £ Money Matters

By David Edwards

The good news is that there will be no increase in subscriptions for the 2010/11 Membership year.

Last year the Club took the decision to "Direct Sell" membership via our hard working Membership Secretary, Joanne (Jo) Edwards. The result was considered a success by the Board (Committee) with none of the uncertainty of what Club money was resting in the various Tackle Shops, most of whom had served the Club faithfully for many years. We were able to monitor our cash flow instantly at any time of the year even though we were without a Treasurer until November when Ken Gates volunteered his services. With the help of Jo, David Murdoch and yours truly, Ken was able to lick our Accounts into shape culminating in admiration for the way the Accounts were presented from the Club's Accountant, Jerry Breen.

#### MEMBERSHIP FOR 2010-2011 – RENEWAL AND NEW MEMBERS

Members shall be identified as either "Renewing" & "New".

**Renewing** members are those in membership up to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010.

**New** members are those anglers joining the Club after a "Lapsed" period or as New Members joining with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010.

**MEMBERSHIP MAY ONLY BE OBTAINED DIRECT FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY BY POST OR BY TELEPHONE TO THE CLUB OFFICE – 01582 728114.**

**NB: Please allow 7 days for the delivery of your new Membership Book.**

Existing Adult & Intermediate members are required to attend 1 work party before 1<sup>st</sup> June in each Membership year.

There is a £10 Work Party Exemption Levy for those who do not attend a Work Party.

No 2010-11 Membership Renewals issued without Work Party attendance or Levy paid. Membership may be renewed up to & including 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

**New** members joining after 1<sup>st</sup> June shall pay additional "One Off" Joining Fee of £20 except the "Under 16s" who are exempt.

"Introduction" Membership Application Forms will be placed in selected Tackle Shops.

### 2010 Edwards Predator Challenge

This years competition will be arranged and managed by Club member and bailiff Mark Simmonds who is a keen predator angler. For further details about the competition and for details on how to enter please keep an eye on the press reports and the website or contact Mark on (07814) 470076 or via email at predator@lutonac.org

The main change this year will be the inclusion of a 24 hour match to be fished on the South Lagoon so there is a chance of a zander or two.

#### **Round 1: 23rd & 24th October 2010**

24 Hour Match on South Lagoon 3pm Saturday to 3pm Sunday

#### **Round 2: 5th December 2010**

Black Cat River Ouse 08:30-14:30

#### **Round 3: 9th January 2010**

River Ouse Lavendon Upstream 08:30-14:30

#### **Round 4: 6th February 2010**

Guest Water—Exact details to be confirmed

### New Venue - River Ouse at Haversham



In October the Club was offered a short stretch of the river ouse at Haversham just north of Milton Keynes. We are trialling the venue for a year and if it proves popular the lease can be extended. It is only a short stretch of river but the stretches either side have produced quality fish with Chub to 8lb reported. Luton AC members who have given it a go so far have caught chub up to 5lb 8oz. There is a gated car park close to the river which is well away from the public road. See the website for more information on this venue. If you fish it please let us know how you get on as your feedback is appreciated and could affect whether or not the lease is extended.

# Work Parties and Fisheries Improvements

The 2009 work party programme, in conjunction with the Work Party Exemption Levy (WPEL) was a great success. The increased number of volunteers at our work parties enabled the Club to complete an enormous amount of work, particularly at Woodland Lake, at Home Farm, Tingrith.

We held numerous weekend work parties at Woodland and along with the odd weekday (small) work days we built 16 decked swims, a 26ft bridge and over 100 yards of compacted path topped with wood chippings utilising over 80 tonnes of materials which were all moved by hand. Woodland was not the only venue to benefit from the extra help. The mandatory Beckerings tree cut was completed by our members saving a large Contractor's fee in the process.

North House Lake had 4 swims rebuilt and extended into the lake to aid landing of fish with the varying water levels that can be experienced there.

The River Ouse at Wyboston was the scene of 3 days of work to establish a flat path right to the top end of our stretch and to build another impressive bridge of over 20ft over the channel dug by the Environment Agency to feed water into the Natural England scrapes near the entrance to Heron Lake. This bridge was designed by our Chairman and paid for by the EA after months of negotiations by Dave on the Club's behalf.

The Grand Union Canal (Litter Pick and Stoke Hammond Lay-By clear up), Lavendon Mill (Path strimming), Biddenham (Platform renewals), the River Ouzel along Town South (Bank clearance), Eaton Ford (General maintenance) and Black Cat (Platform repairs) all benefited from our members dedication and hard work as well as those at the aforementioned venues.

The most noticeable achievement was the new otter proof (we sincerely hope it is!) fence around North House Lake. This was erected by 2 different contractors, the latter phase being constructed to a higher specification than the first phase. Members did have an input to some of this work which helped keep the overall cost down a little. In addition, a new boundary fence was erected by another contractor to keep the cattle away from the south and west sides of the otter fencing and Club members erected a new boundary fence along the northern end of the lake field. There is still work being done at the entrance and the redundant Phase 2 trench still requires backfilling. We are also extremely grateful to the Environment Agency for an unsolicited grant of £2,500.00 towards the cost of the otter fence. A great gesture that was initiated by Dr. Ian Hirst of the EA. Our sincere thanks go to Dr.Hirst and his colleagues for all the help and advice given to the Club throughout the project.

This year, we plan to plough the WPEL money from those who opted out of attending a work party, back into the venues for further improvements. We have reached an agreement with the owners of Lavendon Mill to allow us to create a secure car park in the field above the Mill House. Biddenham requires a number of platforms to be replaced and repairs to one of the bridges. The Licence for the Black Cat fishery comes up for renewal this year and if we succeed in retaining it we may have some fencing to do right at the very top of the fishery. It is also hoped to allow night fishing here when our new Licence is negotiated.

The Fishery Management Committee (FMC), led by Fisheries Manager David Murdoch, meets regularly to plan and organise the work considered necessary to improve standards. The embryo Wyboston Fisheries Management Sub-Committee is gradually forming into a useful group of members interested in looking after and improving the Wyboston area waters.

The FMC members are David Murdoch, Jo Edwards, Brett Herdman, Charlie Riddock and Dave Edwards.

The 2010 Beckerings tree cut and Barrett's Mere have already been well attended and your continued support will see our waters keep on improving year on year. We are actively seeking Crucian Carp, Rudd, and Roach for stocking The Mere and topping up Woodlands Lake.

All that remains is to give massive thanks to all of you who helped in so many ways over the last year.

Brett Herdman (Fisheries Management Team)



Woodland Lake



A Woodland Lake Mirror Carp



A Woodland Lake Common Carp



North House Lake Otter Fence



Barretts Mere—Work in Progress

## Remaining Work Party Dates 2010

**Saturday 24/04/10 Biddenham**

**Saturday 08/05/10 Lavendon Mill**

**Sunday 09/05/10 Lavendon Mill**

**Saturday 22/05/10 Barretts Mere**

**Sunday 23/05/10 Barretts Mere**

**Saturday 29/05/10 Wyboston River Ouse**

## Something new for carpers..

The "New Moon" Carp Trophy match will be fished at Beckerings Reservoir over the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

It will be a 24 hour competition open to all Club Members and the entry shall be limited to 12 members on a first come, first served basis. Junior members may take part providing they have a non-participating adult accompanying them for the full 24 hours.

The entry fee is £10.00 per entrant and is payable in advance.

The draw for swims will be at 7.30 am on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> June and the match will commence at 9 am and end at 9 am on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> June. All entries, including payment in full, must be received by Match Booking Secretary, Steve Sharp, 96 Arncliffe Drive, Heelands, Milton Keynes MK13 7LJ

Club Officials may only apply for any vacancies still available after 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010.

The Winner will receive a perpetual trophy plus JAG Stainless Custom Bars and Bank Sticks worth £97.97 and a CC Moore session bait pack worth £24.49.

There will be second, third and fourth placed prizes which will be bait packages worth approximately £75, £50 and £24.49 (details still being negotiated as we go to press although each will include a CC Moore session pack and the second place will also receive bait supplied by Fishing Wizard)

More details and rules are available on the club website or you can contact Steve on (07704) 462635

**Please Note: Beckerings reservoir will be closed from dusk on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> June until 10.00 am on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> June.**

## IN THE PRESS

By Steve Sharp

Every week I produce a news report which is posted on the Luton AC web site as well as being sent to the weekly nationals, local papers and web sites.

Over the past year we have received lots of great coverage with articles in Advanced Pole Fishing, Total Coarse Fishing, Angling Times as well as a Venue of the Week for Beckerings Reservoir in Carp-Talk Magazine. All of these articles can be viewed on the Club web site.

In order to keep the annual membership fees at their current levels we need to maintain our membership numbers and that can only be achieved by continually publicising the Club, its waters and the fish that can be caught.

This is where I need your help as I desperately require more catch reports whether it be a carp, pike, zander, bream, tench or a nice bag of roach etc, I would like to hear from you. The fish you catch don't need to be massive simply send your reports and remember to include your name and where you're from either by email to [catchreports@lutonac.org](mailto:catchreports@lutonac.org) or text or phone me on 07704462635.

Photos are always welcome and often appear in the local papers and sometimes in Angling Times and Anglers Mail. If you catch any nice carp then you may find yourself in Carp-Talk magazine as I write a weekly column for them called Beds & Bucks Carping and I have bait prizes worth over £120 to give away each month courtesy of my three sponsors, CC Moore, Fishing Wizard and Innovate Baits.

## Ivinghoe Golf Range Parking

Unfortunately the club have been advised by the Owner of Ivinghoe Golf Driving Range that the current arrangement whereby Members and Guests may park their vehicles whilst fishing the adjacent Club canal waters will be suspended with effect from **31<sup>st</sup> May 2010**.

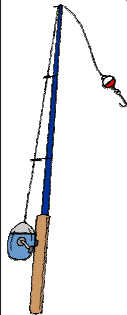
The Owner is to develop a new marina on his property between the Driving Range and the rear of the canal towpath hedge and Health & Safety Regulations require that members of the public are excluded from the site whilst the work is in progress.

*It is hoped that the work should be completed in the following 12 months and that a similar facility will be afforded the Club's Members again after completion.*

The Club's Officials are sorry that members will be disadvantaged by these events and hope that you will co-operate with the Owner's wishes should temporary changes to our present privileges be necessary during the run up to the end of our current Agreement.

The Club is currently exploring other possible off road parking sites along our stretch of Grand Union Canal.

## unattended rods and litter



A reminder to all our members that baited rods should not be left unattended at any time. The use of a remote sounder makes no difference.

There is still a fair bit of litter being left at our venues In addition it has been noticed that people have been leaving behind their human waste and piles of toilet paper in the bushes which is totally unacceptable. If the landowners see this it is not going to do the Club any favours and could result in the loss of night fishing or worse still the loss of a venue.

Anyone caught breaking these rules will be expelled!

## Discounts for LAC Members

A reminder to all members that with your Club book you are able to receive a discount at the following places....

GJW Titmuss,

New Mill, Lamer Lane, Wheathampstead

Offers a good range of Pellets, Groundbaits, Particles and Liquid attractants  
LAC Members receive a 10% discount on fishing products.

Luton Army & Navy Surplus,

46 New Bedford Road, Luton

Offers a good range of clothing and camping accessories. LAC Members receive a 10% discount.

Fishing Wizard,

5 Meridian Building, Nazeing Glass Ind Est, Nazeing New Road, Herts

Offers a good range of Pellets, Groundbaits, Particles and Liquid attractants  
LAC Members receive a 5% discount.

## BADAC Water Share

We are pleased to announce that the water share agreement with Barnet and District Angling Club will be continued allowing LAC members to fish the following BADAC waters

River Ivel—Twin Bridges at Blunham  
River Ouse—Hambarn and Spinney at Blunham  
River Thames—Sonning, Berkshire

## "Has anybody seen the new pickaxe?"

That was Jo calling from the rear of her car whilst we were packing up after a Work Party resurfacing the Access area outside the new North House Lake gateway.

*"I've got the new Mattock in the trailer but I don't know what happened to the pickaxe."* I moved across to my car fully expecting to see that it had been put in the load space along with the Wacka Plate and other tools that had been in use. *"No, it's not in my car. Are you sure you haven't got in yours Jo?"*

We all moved into search mode, checking everywhere that we might have used it but when you consider our activities had been limited to an area no more than 100 feet square there was little chance of mislaying it. I cast my mind back to when I had seen it last. Ah yes, I last saw it laying on the Geotextile membrane in the new gateway. It was used to prevent the wind from blowing the membrane out of place before the "Black Stuff" was tipped on it to be compacted into place by Brett using the 'Wacka'.

It was then that the proverbial penny dropped. Charlie got his telephone out of his pocket and started to scroll through the 'pics' he had taken at lunchtime before the backfilling was completed. *"Yes, it was definitely there in front of the gate threshold. Look you can see it quite clearly in this shot."* said Chas.

*"Berk",* I muttered under my breath. *"Fancy burying it under the "Black Stuff".*

*"We'll have to dig it out"* Jo said as she grabbed a spade. *"I don't think so,"* I replied. *"We've already packed the 'Wacka' Plate into the back of my car and we don't really want to go through the struggle of getting it out and back in again today do we?"*

*"But it's buried under all that stuff,"* she continued. *"Well it's not going anywhere is it?"* Brett, Charlie & I chorused.

So there it lays all peaceful and quiet like. We'll dig it out when we go over to Wyboston to do the final bit of the job immediately inside the gate. That is as long as we do it before this story is published!

There is a moral to this story. It shows how easy it is to mislay or lose tools if you don't do a comprehensive check of everything that you take out to Work Parties.

Now I wonder what happened to our original Mattock, the loss of which caused me to buy the new one that included the new pickaxe in the same box? Anyone got a metal detector?

By Dave Edwards



Will members please note that the Club can no longer be contacted via its old PO Box number. This has been cancelled on the grounds of cost cutting.

## Club's Match Fishing Programme.

Commencing Season 2010 – 2011, the Fixture List and other competitive angling related items will no longer be published in the Membership Book.

This has been brought about by a gradual re-vamping of the Membership Book to ultimately be replaced by a separate ID style Membership Card and a Waters Handbook respectively. It is intended that in time, the Club's annual costs will be reduced and the work involved in editing and printing the old style Membership Book will be substantially reduced allowing the money to be put to better use.

Any member wishing to receive a copy of the 2010-2011 Fixture List and Match related information should contact the Club Office on 01582 728114 giving personal membership details when The Match Pack will be sent by return.

The waters reserved for competitions list will appear in the membership book and in the match pack for ease of reference.

## SOMETHING to AVOID?

On Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> & Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2011 an event called the "Ultra Race" will be taking place along the Canal towpath between Northampton & Tring involving a considerable number of runners. They run south on the Saturday and return on the Sunday.

It is therefore advisable that members avoid fishing the canal on those two days as considerable disruption is likely. The Club has lodged a protest with British Waterways about this invasion of our rights and is seeking redress for the loss of our amenity from the Organisers of yet another inappropriate activity along the canal towpath.



### Ideas & Suggestions...

The Club is always interested in hearing members ideas and suggestions. If you have any ideas or suggestions please let us know via email or in writing via the Club secretary.



### Don't Forget

Keep hold of your current key as we will not be replacing the keys and locks this year due to the cost implications.

If you do need a new key it can be purchased at a cost of £4.00

## Ice Breaking..

Unfortunately the Club has received letters of complaint (and photos of the alleged perpetrators) from both British Waterways and some irate boat owners regarding some of our members breaking ice in the vicinity of moored boats especially on section 3b near Three Locks.

Members must be mindful that moored boats could have people on board who will not appreciate being woken up by the noise of ice breaking being transmitted through the water.

Please stop and consider the effects your actions may have on others before acting inconsiderately.

## Volunteers Wanted

We have vacancies on The Board for 4 members who feel they have something to give to the running of the Club.

In particular we need someone from the match fraternity.

We also need an engineer to act as plant maintenance officer to look after the motorised equipment and power tools we own.

Please contact the Club office if you feel you can help in any way.

## BLACK CAT NIGHT FISHING

It is likely that our River Ouse venue at Black Cat will be opened up for Night Fishing as of the 16th June 2010.

This will be confirmed via the website and weekly reports once the new lease has been finalised.

## Luton Angling Club 2010/2011 Membership Renewal Form

To rejoin the Club, fill out your details on this form and send together with the appropriate payment to the **Membership Secretary, Luton A.C. Ltd., 40 Weatherby, Dunstable, Beds. LU6 1TW** or if you prefer you can pay by Credit/Debit Card by telephoning the Club Office on 01582 728114. Credit Card transactions will attract a £2.50 surcharge to cover bank charges.

If you are renewing more than 1 subscription, e.g. Husband & Wife or an additional family member or friend, please ensure that you include the additional name(s) & address(es), Tel No, e-mail address and date of birth in the space provided or on an additional sheet of paper. Your details will not be passed on to any third party.

Tick that which applies	Class of Membership	Renewal before 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2010	New Member or renewal after 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2010
	Adult Member	£48.00	£68.00
	Adult Member (Plus Wk. Party Levy)	£58.00	£68.00
	Joint Membership (Husband & Wife)	£75.00	£95.00
	Intermediate Member (16 & U18)	£29.00	£49.00
	Intermediate Member (Plus Wk .Party Levy)	£39.00	£49.00
	State Pensioner	£29.00	£49.00
	Disabled (Blue Badge Holder)	£29.00	£49.00
	Under 16 (Junior) (No key)	£19.00	£19.00
	Family 1 (1 Parent & up to 2 children under 16)	£85.00	£105.00
	Family 2 (Both Parents & 2 children under 16)	£95.00	£115.00
	Family 1 & 2 – Add £10 in lieu of Wk.Party Attendance.	£95.00/£105.00	As Family 1 & 2 above.
	Extra car park key	£5.00	£5.00
<b>NB.</b>	<b>Ivinghoe Golf Range Parking Permit Unavailable 2010-2011</b>	n/a	n/a
	<b>TOTAL</b>		

Current Membership No. (Renewals only)
NAME:
ADDRESS 1:
ADDRESS 2:
Post Code:
Telephone No.
E-mail Address:
Date of Birth: (All categories – To assist with operation of proposed new database):

Extra Member(s) Please enclose any additional members on separate sheet
NAME:
ADDRESS 1:
ADDRESS 2:
Post Code:
Telephone No.
E-mail Address:
Date of Birth:

Please Supply Your email address as it helps us keep you up to date with club affairs.

\* Husband & Wife – Includes Man & Female partner or couples who have entered into legal civil partnerships, providing proof of same.

\*\* Intermediate – 16 years and under 18 as of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010.

\*\*\* Disabled – Blue Badge holder or in receipt of Disabled Living Allowance (Proof required please)

\*\*\*\* Under 16 as of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010 (Formerly known as Juniors)

E&OE