



# The Journal of the Lee Anglers' Consortium

## LEE ANGLER

Issue Number 16 Newsletter February 2008

### Introduction.

Another year has past and perhaps the quietest in all the years since we began in 1992. The most important message of the year is to thank you for your valued and continued support. However, what is clear is the number of anglers in the Lee Valley who no longer fish the navigation. Why is this? As a member of the Environment Agency's Fishery Action Plan (FAP) stakeholders group I am constantly reminding the EA that until anglers can be guaranteed to see their float disappear on a regular basis then anglers will stay away. There are still good days to be had but you have to be in the right place and there at the right time. Quality perch now frequent most of the river and big carp are found in many pounds. In addition big bream, chub and tench were reported. Ponders End took a step to recovering, Rye House produced good autumn bags of quality roach and the A406 bridge at Edmonton still holds its usual winter roach shoals. I am sure there are many more good catches that never get reported. We read in the various angling papers and magazines that rivers are recovering and that

cormorant numbers are on the decline. However, I have not seen a marked improvement to our sport on the Navigation. We need answers to all the issues raised in the FAP report which work started on some 5 years ago now. For example, how many winter fishing days are lost in the Enfield to Stonebridge area because the Turkey Brook churns out brown turbid water every time we get heavy rain. This never use to happen! I recently found some photographs that I had taken along the Lee Bridge ice rink. There were anglers all the way from the Prince of Wales PH right upstream to Springfield marina and then further upstream nearly every peg was being fished below the 'dirty ditch' at Tottenham. Why are these areas now devoid of anglers? Because of the lack of angling administrators in the Lee Valley willing to take responsibility for challenging the various authorities involved I am virtually a lone voice in trying to protect your river. What we need is pool of 20 or so people willing to get involved and bring some of these major issues to the table for debate and action. Will you help?

On an optimistic note the LAC have secured the fishing on the Navigation for a further 12 months to March 2009 and I can assure you that I will continue to work to seek improvement in our fishing.

### Fishery Matters.

You will be aware that the media have covered stories about illegal fishing and poaching. This is nothing new to the Lee Valley as the Lee was one of the first rivers to be hit by this crime. If you witness such incidents please do not put your safety at risk and get involved. Instead keep your distance and report what you are seeing to the EA hotline (on your EA licence) and even the local police if you think dangerous weapons are being used. Please try to report the incident whilst it is happening rather than leave it to the next day. In the summer I met with National Grid, EDF and BW's safety officers to have each cable, either crossing or running along the river, individually risk assessed. I will attend a further meeting to discuss their findings. This is a very important issue as overhead cables can kill and nobody should take risks. I have also been consulted about the tow-path enhancements work

being carried out at Waltham Cross albeit that, it appears, most of my advice has been ignored. Our Bow stretches have been badly affected by the works to the Olympic village. Stretches of the Bow rivers are now fenced off to the public. I have commented on various matters including the angling legacy after 2012, perimeter fencing, undergrounding power lines and attended site meetings relating to the future use of the Prescott Channel and stopping the tide running up this waterway. This work is to allow the conveyance of construction material to the village building sites. Many of the tow path stoppages take place without any official prior warning to this office. So please accept my apologies for any inconvenience you suffer on the bank as it is totally out of my hands.

On a bright note in December over 3,000 small roach and skimmers were stocked at Enfield by the EA. Has anyone caught any of these fish that have been stocked over the past three years now?

### Terry Mansbridge Memorial Bench

Last year I reported the sad death of our Vice President and my closest friend, Terry Mansbridge.

Christine, his widow, asked me to have a memorial bench placed on the towpath of the river he cared for so much. Eventually, after a lot of bureaucratic hassle I managed to get the inscribed bench installed at Ponders End Lock where he often use to fish with his friends. When you pass the bench please check it is fine.

**Administration**

In 2006 our bailiff, Dave Anderson left the consortium and in 2007 he no longer continued his crayfish culling but he will soon be carrying out specialised crayfish work with the EA in 2008. After a year without a north section bailiff two voluntary bailiffs came forward to cover 2007/8. Tom Rowley's friend Denis Cavanagh covers most weekends and Martin Phipps has worked some of the weekends and all weekdays. Martin has put more hours in

than I could have hoped for. By being on the bank so often more day tickets have been sold than any one of the last 5 years. I thank them both for their sterling work. Tom Rowley continues to cover the southern beat but each year he reports less anglers on the bank.

**LAC Website** ([www.lee-anglers-consortium.co.uk](http://www.lee-anglers-consortium.co.uk)) To date there is a continuous, but small in number, hits on the site. There is very little feed back from anglers to enable me to refresh it with the latest news.

**Senior Citizens/ Disabled Anglers Match**

Once again it is hoped to hold this match at Ramme Marsh Lock downstream with our good friends the Royal Small Arms A.S. providing the headquarters. The date planned is Wednesday 6th August 2008. Please make your booking to fish as normal, leaving

your telephone number and/or your club's contact number. Last year we were very pleased to see the numbers slightly increase. It is a great day as our senior citizens put the social day out with friends before the catching of fish. Discounted prizes were purchased from J&B Tackle and tackle vouchers were received from Abbey Tackle. I thank all of you who were involved. Anyone willing to help on the day please get in touch with me. Your presence or any prize donation would very much be appreciated.

**Lee Junior Match**

British Waterways are keen for the LAC to run a junior match. This would have to be one Saturday in the summer school holidays and I would need to discuss assistance from our local NFA coaches and details with BW and the EA. If this match can be devel-

oped please keep an eye out for details on our website, angling columns in the media and tackle shops.

**New Season Prices**

All prices have remained the same for next year. Season tickets are now available through the post and are valid from the 1st April. Individuals please use the form below. For club secretaries the minimum order is for 6 tickets per club at £12 each ticket. There are no concessionary tickets for clubs. Do not forget that you need to renew your EA licence from 1st April.

**Lastly**, I remind you that there is no all round year fishing above Aqueduct Lock, Cheshunt so **please fish below Cheshunt in the old 'close season'**.  
Secretary  
Dennis Meadhurst

**LEE ANGLERS' CONSORTIUM**  
**Season Ticket Application 2008/9**  
**MAIL ORDER ONLY**

LAST NAME: ..... FIRST NAME.....

AGE (if applicable).....

ADDRESS: Name or Number and Street.....

Town.....County .....POSTCODE.....

**Ticket Required: (please tick)**

**Adult** .....£25.00 [ ]

**Concessionary** £12.50 [ ]

**Under 16** [ ]

**Over 60** [ ]

**Registered Disabled Person** [ ]

[ ]

[ ]

[ ]

[ ]

[ ]

Indicate type below **Tackle box stickers**..... £0.25 [ ]

**Metal Badge**.....£2.50 [ ]

**Handbooks** .

**Revised** .....£2.00 [ ]

*Please send form with fee, together with a self addressed stamped envelope to:  
(Permits will not be sent without stamp).*

Lee Anglers' Consortium  
PO Box 19426  
London, E4 8UZ

Please make cheques etc. payable to 'Lee Anglers' Consortium'