

VERULAM ANGLING CLUB

www.verulam-angling.co.uk

MEMBERSHIPS ON OFFER

THE VAC offers full membership consisting of an Entrance Fee, which includes the cost of a gate key and Annual Subscription.

There are discounted rates for Senior Citizens and Disabled persons. The junior fee is further discounted as we want to encourage younger members into the club.

A "Partners" membership is also available as are "Parent & Child" and "Family" memberships.

A "River Ouse & Ivel Only" membership is available for those who only wish to make use of the club's Ouse and Ivel fisheries. No entrance fee is payable - just an annual fee approximately half the full fee.

There is also a Trout Fishing only membership on the same lines as the River Ouse & Ivel Only.

It should be noted that our membership year commences on June 16. However, the club has various fisheries available during the close season and if new members wish to fish earlier, they can elect to pay an extra £4 per week for every week prior to the start of the season.

TROUT FISHING

FROM THE end of February until mid May (10 weeks), trout fishing is available for members on the purchase of a day or season ticket.

Year on year this is becoming more popular and provides an extra dimension to the facilities we offer.

Stocking takes place throughout the trout season so that sport remains constant.

For those who have never tried it our trout section can offer some friendly advice and possibly the loan of some tackle.

WORK PARTIES

ONE OF OUR conditions of membership is that able bodied senior members attend one working party per year.

You will either be allocated a day and venue via your membership card or there will be details of work parties in the various newsletters.

Your membership card will be stamped at the end of the working party and production of the stamped card will enable you to apply for membership the following season.

If, due to valid health reasons, you are unable to attend, advise the Registrar in writing well before renewing your membership. We don't expect those of our members who really are unable, to attend working parties, merely that able bodied members "do their bit".

As an option, you can "buy out" your work party (see your application form for details).

THIS MEMBERSHIP GUIDE has been compiled to give prospective new members as much information about the Verulam Angling Club as possible, so that you know what you are going to get for your money.

Certainly angling is not the cheap sport it once was, but we believe we offer excellent value, a very wide choice of fisheries providing a wide variety of angling and all the species you'll want to catch with specimen size fish in every one of our waters.

Over recent years, considerable survey work and subsequent stocking has been taking place to ensure our fisheries remain in good form for our members.

The fact that we are one of the few clubs to be not only maintaining their membership, but increasing it year on year, shows that we must be doing something right!

The Club was formed in 1934 by some 14-20 local businessmen. It has since flourished and the membership now exceeds 1,800.

This figure may seem large but whilst some of the very popular fisheries do get busy at times, others are rarely over-crowded.

In 1986 we became a limited company (limited by guarantee). This was solely to give the officers of the club full personal protection from the liabilities of the club. All it means to members is that they are liable to pay the sum of £1 in the event of the club being wound up due to litigation.

FISHERIES

The club controls fishing at four local still-waters, two stretches of the local River Lee, around four miles of the River Great Ouse, just north of Bedford along with a small section of the upper Ouse near Buckingham. Members also have access to six miles of the River Ivel and a section of the GU canal.

The club is also associated with extensive consortium fisheries which includes 21 miles of the R. Lee and four lakes in the Lea Valley and a lake in Denham with adjacent River Colne and discounted arrangements with three commercial fisheries. Some fisheries are available during the close season.

Our affiliations include the Angling Trust, UOCA, London Anglers Association and many others. Our association with the Herts & Middx Wildlife Trust reflects our concern for the environment we use.

QUERIES

If you have any queries regarding actual membership then telephone our Registrar on 07866 559957 or email:

registrar@verulam-angling.co.uk.

The Secretary will be pleased to answer any more general club queries on (01502) 471731. Please restrict your calls to before 9 pm. You can also E-Mail us at

secretary@verulam-angling.co.uk.

Please note that, should you decide to take up membership, this begins on June 16th and ends on June 15th the following year.

Note you will be able to view further details and download an application form from our Web Site at: "www.verulam-angling.co.uk" which contains more detailed information about the club and its fisheries.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE FROM YOU

WHILST you join a club for your own reasons we ask you to remember that a club is, by definition, a group of people joined together with a common interest.

This means that we like members not to remain isolated individuals but to take an interest in the club.

This you can do in many ways but basically we like to know you're out there.

If you have a comment to make, then make it to the right quarters -- don't just voice it to others on the bankside. The Secretary prides himself on always responding to members' correspondence so if you have a query or comments, write or email him.

MAGAZINE

The club magazine is our, hopefully improved, version of a normal club newsletter. The size and success of the issues depends on you - the member.

The editor is always pleased to receive anything for publication, whether it be comments, articles, brief tips, complaints, good quality photos, literally anything at all.

The more varied the input, the more interest it arouses, the more input we get and so on. Thus the publication and the club become more successful.

WEBSITE

Our website is also popular with members contributing photographs and comments via the club forum facility.

If you feel you want to put something of a more practical nature back into the club why not help with its administration? It can be very satisfying and need not take up hours of valuable fishing time.

If you can't spare committee time, then help out casually. If the gate to a fishery is left open, don't ignore it, close it. If you see litter lying, pick it up.

Remember, they are your 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 a delightful amenity.

It is very popular with the members being very local to St Albans 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.

Like many clubs, we do have problems with crayfish though using fyke nets, we believe we now have them under control.

Coarse fishing closes at the end of February when Trout fishing is available for a 10-week period.

Frogmore

THIS VENUE situated between St Albans and Radlett (not to be confused with Moor Mill) is a long established fishery.

Low water levels can be a problem though we have taken significant steps to protect, what we call, the Match Lake.

The Car Park lake and Tony's lake are both available though the former does suffer in dry summers.

Despite its problems, this fishery which is open all year, is still a very popular fishery with members.

River Ivel

AS members of the Ivel Protection Association, members access to over six miles of the river in the Biggleswade and Sandy areas.

Barbel and chub show up well here with the former reaching specimen proportions with fish of 15lb and 16lb being reported in recent seasons as well as chub to 7lb.

In conjunction with the EA, efforts are 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 and one of 2lb 15oz was taken last year and a brace of 2lb-ers last season.

There's no doubt, the Ivel is a pleasant river to spend a few hours fishing.

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 with some over 30lb.

Tench are plentiful with fish over 8lb 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.

Night fishing is allowed with strict controls.

Verulam Fisheries

Moor Mill

HAVING TAKEN over when the LAA relinquished the fishing rights, the club is taking large steps to restore this fishery back to its former glory.

Famous for "toadless" the 40lb leather carp, the fishery has recently revealed a near-record crucian carp, massive bream and tench along with perch and large pike.

There are also very big roach to be had (3lb 4oz reported in 2007) with some large bags of nice fish being reported.

Troy Lake

LAST SEASON we joined forces with the Uxbridge club to run a lake and stretch of the River Colne backwater near Denham.

Whilst it's still early days, we're told there's good sport to be had.

Already carp to 35lb have been taken along with good pike and massive bream to 20lb. The backwater produces good fish especially in winter when the weedgrowth has died off.

Felmersham

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

The club 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.

Prolific weedgrowth can be a problem during the summer and one meadow in particular unfishable at this time of year.

In 2006, we took over the north bank downstream of the islands which gives members better access to some of the barbel and chub swims.

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

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 (19lb the best last season). Good bags of chub are a feature with one member taking 33 in one session.

With EA consent, we have built nine platforms which gives members good access to our reedy bank for the first time in many years.

Turnford Lakes

WE ARE members of a consortium of clubs to fish four excellent lakes in the north of the Lea Valley. Sport is reported as very good and a carp of over 40lb has been reported during 2005.

Certainly it is very handy for those living in north London and the Lee Valley. There is no close season.

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

Marford Farm

WHAT CAN I say about Marford Farm. Situated on the River Lee just outside Wheathampstead, it is a superb fishery with a good length of bank.

Specimen roach are taken (the best last season being 2-6-0) along with barbel up to 10lb. There are also carp, chub, dace and perch over 3lb.

There is no doubt this is a very popular fishery and thus the limited number of swims may be a problem at times. Conversely, you can still turn up on a Saturday morning and find just a few cars.

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.

Our club policy is thus "leave litter, leave the club" regardless of whether the litter is yours 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.

To improve matters, we built a backwater to provide extra swims and a fish holding area.

The result has been spectacular and the fishery often rivals the more popular Marford Farm.

Buckingham

ANOTHER 2007 acquisition, this intimate section of the upper Ouse, sports chub, nice dace, roach, huge perch.

If you fancy trotting with a centre-pin, then this is the venue for you.

LAC

THE VAC now has an arrangement with the Lee Anglers Consortium whereby all our members can fish some 20 miles of the River Lee without extra cost.

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.

Carlton Road

THE opposite bank and upstream of our Church section this attractive length is on a substantial bend of the river, provides around 30 pegs and is lined with plantation willows.

With slow, wider stretches and narrower faster runs, the river should suit all anglers and with much cover on the far bank, casting over to these trees and bushes should provide good sport.

Parking is close by and members only have around 100 yards to walk to the river.

Night fishing is allowed, so no doubt we shall be hearing reports of good barbel.

Manor Farm

THE CLUB has an arrangement with this commercial fishery near Sandy.

Members receive £1 discount on their day's fishing.

GU Canal

WE ARE pleased to announce linking with the Tring club to provide members with access to the Aylesbury arm of the Grand Union Canal.

A considerable stretch of fishing is therefore now available which on its day, can provide some excellent sport.

No doubt we will organise some match fixtures at the venue, so it might be worth attending to find out more about the venue.

Timberland

ONLY last season, we have forged a link with the Timberland commercial fishery in Harlow.

Members have all five lakes available at no extra charge - what more could you want.

www.timberlandfishery.co.uk for more information.

Jack's Lake

ANOTHER new addition is the day ticket lake near Cockfosters, controlled by the Hadley club.

Again, it's free to club members!

LAA

WHILST, it has to be said, the London Anglers Association are not the organisation they were 30 years ago, they still retain the rights of many super fisheries and at around £30 per year for a senior, is still good value and cheaper than Associate Membership.