

From the Riverbank

At last spring has finally arrived following one of the worst winters from an angling point of view for many a season, the cold freezing weather left the fisheries either ice borne or seemingly devoid of fish with only the occasional bite to keep the handiest of anglers going. There is an old saying that you can't catch them at home although this winter it seemed that the chances were about equal!

What a difference a bit of warm sunshine can make, the waters are now full of activity, Comwich is full of fry and the perch and jack pike are having a real feast, some of the big carp can be seen cruising in the upper layers of the water and are responding to shorter tactics.

The match lake is heavily coloured and some decent tench have been putting in an appearance, it's still a little early for the recently stocked crucians to show, but give it a few weeks and these beautiful fish should start showing in numbers. The match lake has been awarded Silver status by the British Disabled Anglers' Association, which is a very welcome award and a big well done to all those involved in achieving this. Unfortunately some very thoughtless anglers keep leaving the gates open which renders the fencing useless, the gates are there to keep unwanted predators out so please close them every time you go through them.

At Dunwear some of the refurbished swims are due to be opened which will allow better access to the senior lake and are expected to be very popular. The North Lake has been fishing consistently well with some good catches coming from it.

With the rivers closed until 16 June, the canal has been the focus for matches this spring and there have been some superb catches of tench along the wide waters stretch in particular.

It was a shame to see such a low attendance at the AGM, when some hard decisions regarding finance needed to be addressed. The financial situation has had an impact on every walk of life and angling is not an exception, therefore it was voted that there will be a £10 per permit payment to allow the holder to night fish for a season and members wishing to night fish will need to hold the correct licence when they renew, if they wish to night fish. It is also disappointing to note that some members have been found to be offering their permits to suggest they have paid to fish with extra rods, the bailiff team is aware of this and will be looking out for those concerned. In addition to the season permit increase, there will be a £5 night fishing charge added to a day ticket where appropriate, seven day permits will be withdrawn due to lack of take up rates.

It is always nice to recognise someone's contribution to angling so it is with great pleasure that the Committee can announce that Nigel Bull is being awarded life membership for his outstanding contribution to the Club, well done Nigel on an award very well deserved.

To share the news of your catch and let us know how you've been getting on, just tell your tackle dealer the next time you visit the shop, alternatively email Fish@bridgewaterangling.co.uk or tell one of the bailiff team.

Tight lines

Chris Tulley