

From the Riverbank

While we have been locked in the vice-like grip of the freezing winter, there has not been much to report on the fishing itself. There is, however, a lot of news regarding the fisheries themselves, with some major developments either being implemented or completed.

At Dunwear, finally, the bins for dog deposits have been upgraded, and new ones installed, so there should be no excuse for dog deposits being left on the pathways. The other good news is that the Club is going to reinstate some of the original swims on the senior lake, these will be permanent constructions and when completed will allow much more of the lake to be fished in safety. This major project will include such swims as the Helicopter, with many thanks going to Phil Stone and Somerset County Council for all their very constructive help and advice, the Club has long wanted to carry out this remedial work on the complex but as always, in these times things take time to get the go ahead, but the Club is now in the position of commencing this welcome and very much needed work.

The other great news is that the work on the Combwich match lake has now been completed with an additional eight new swims installed, a smooth level path running round it and hardstanding parking for five vehicles, this means the lake is totally wheelchair friendly and has been assessed by the British Disabled Angler Association, who will soon award their star rating. The Club would like to thank Iain Turner and the Environment Agency for funding this superb project and Steve Cappel of Placepave for doing such a great job in very difficult weather conditions. Images of the completed work are now available on the website. Due to this construction work, some of the bank on the main lake is a bit rutted, but this will be rolled and seeded in the spring.

The match lake has had 500 crucion carp stocked into it and currently the Club is assessing stock levels to ensure this venue reaches its full potential. There also have been some further improvements to some of the swims on the main lake, giving them a more level and comfortable base to fish from. Finally, I would like to remind everyone that it is illegal to kill any eel anywhere in the UK. The worldwide eel population is under threat, with a 97% reduction in the adult stock in the last five years; this is thought to be due to a virus. Whilst eels are not every angler's favourite species, they do have a vital role within a fishery, so please do not break the law and treat them with respect - when they're gone, they're gone. Fish well.

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@bridgwaterangling.co.uk or tell one of the bailiff team.

Tight lines

Chris Tulley