



Midlands Fisheries Forum

June 13th 2017

Ramada Hotel Warwick Kenilworth

Tea and Coffee served from 6.40pm - Meeting begins 7.00pm

In Association with The Environment Agency

Meeting Notes

Angling Trust Update - John Cheyne, National Regions Manager gives all the latest campaign news and updates

During John's presentation, he spoke about the Angling Trusts plans to hold work shop events aimed at upskilling clubs, that could include things like inspiring youngsters to get in to the sport, making funding bids, how clubs can use social media to boost membership and improve communication, fighting predation, H&S ETC. He ended his presentation with a question – Where do you think your club is struggling and what would you like to see covered at an upskilling event?

A – Getting youngsters in to the sport is key for the future.

A – For kids to carry on fishing after a family fishing event let's say, there needs to be a follow-on program and the focus needs to be – what happens next on their angling journey.

Q – Are schools involved with participation events?

A – There are sportive 6 – 8 week programs that schools have used.

A – A lot of our coaching events involved schools – 176 kids last year from Coventry schools through partnership events with the Canal and Rivers Trust.

*John Cheyne - when **most** families go on holiday to the sea side – they go fishing and I think this should be tapped into and try to encourage these families continue to go fishing when they return from holiday.*

John's statement provoked this response from an attendee – I think a rod licence for crabbing and sea fishing would help with getting more people fishing.

Another attendee made this statement – I worked with the Canal and Rivers Trust on a getting kids fishing program and history and nature were subjects incorporated into these events.

Underwater Avon - Jack Perks, Famous Underwater Cameraman and Photographer will show amazing footage and talk about the fish in the Avon

Jack introduced himself and explained he's a keen all round angler – sea, coarse and game. He's worked with the BBC on programs such as Country File and Spring Watch, Mr Crab Tree Goes Fishing and with Matt Hayes.

Q – I think it's great what you have shown on TV because it's made people realise that it's what's under the water that's important, not what's on it.

A – If you show people what's under the water, I think they get hooked and want to know more.

Q – How can you tell the difference between an F1 carp and a crucian?

A – There's a comprehensive crucian carp identification guide on the Angling Trust website:

<http://www.anglingtrust.net/page.asp?section=1057§ionTitle=National+Crucian+Conservation+Project>

Q – I think that understanding how predators feed will really help anglers catch rates.

Q – You use go-pro cameras, are they ok for broadcasting?

A – I can get away with certain short time footage with them, not a whole documentary.

Q – Have you got more footage coming up this year?

A – I will be filming orcas this summer.

"See what others can't – fish species of the Warwickshire Avon" - The Environment Agency, Daniel Johnson, Fisheries Team Leader and Chris Grzesiok, Fisheries Technical Specialist will show fascinating state of the art ARIS camera footage and will demonstrate how useful it is for monitoring fish

Q – Why was the habitat destroyed at Marcliffe? Reed beds and willows were removed and the weir was raised at least a foot.

A – That work was carried out by the navigation trust. Jobs do go wrong and communication gets lost. There's a list of 24 exemptions for our permitting process. There's an investigation on-going into why the weir was raised.

Q – I fish a private stretch near Barford and the farmer is dead against the proposed navigation from Stratford to Warwick. If the proposal were to go ahead it would be the end of fishing and kill the river.

A – In 2004 when this navigation proposal was put forward, there was a big meeting with angling clubs, trusts and organisations. This scheme has been in the back ground for over 20 years.

A – Another great advantage of angling is it creates a lot of money, people staying on hotels, eating in restaurants ETC bringing money in to the community.

A – Schemes like the one at Marcliffe get done by stealth, we have the water at Marcliffe and we weren't consulted.

Q – Surely this demonstrates why organisations like the Angling Trust need to be supported by individual anglers so our voice is heard and we are listened to.

A – Support from angling clubs is strong and our individual support is vital. We are members of the blueprint for water www.blueprintforwater.org.uk along with WWF, RSPB and many others, between us we represent a lot of people and together we lobby government.

Q – Generally club members don't get involved with the things required to run a club and fishery, there's just too much apathy.

A – I agree it's difficult to get volunteers but I think managing the ones you do have is equally important.

Q – We have problems with fallen trees collecting rubbish to the extent that more than 8 skips would be required to take it away and the EA have told the farmer he can't help us remove the trees. There's so much rubbish this is a pollution incident.

A – It's interesting that the EA have told the farmer that he can't remove them as he's the riparian owner and it's up to him. I'd be inclined to leave the trees when the rubbish is removed and pull them to the side for habitat. Can we agree to meet with you and the farmer and have a look at this problem together to come up with something, it's no problem to set something up.

Q – On our stretch of the Avon segs are so bad you can nearly walk across the whole river on them, we're losing so many fishing pegs to them. Who's problem is this?

A – 30/40 years ago the NRA had a program that wasn't sustainable and the machinery has been decommissioned. Silt and gravels move now they aren't being

dredged. This is happening a lot on many different rivers, I'm sure where the water passes through the middle of the segs there's a deep channel been scoured!

Q – We look at the river levels on the EA website, can we have river temperatures too please.

A – You can look at shootill website – levels and temperatures are available. The EA are looking at a way to standardise the way temperatures are monitored because we need variables to be minimised.