



Verulam Trout News

February 2018



Verulam Trout Committee and Co-opts: Roles and Responsibilities

Bob Ring * (*Chairman*) Contact: tel: 07747795334 (bobring@btinternet.com) - Chairing Verulam Trout Committee Meetings and the VT Annual Meeting. Overall responsibility to ensure the smooth running of VT Representative of VT at the VAC General Committee. VAC Open Day co-ordinator for the VT. Fun Day organizer. Fish purchases. PLUS Assistant Fisheries Manager at Bellows Mill

Barry Evans (*Secretary*) Contact: tel: 01923.682388 (VACTrout1@outlook.com) **Season Ticket Sales** (and liaising with Chris Jennings on ticket preparation etc). Accounts. Agendas and Minutes of Committee and Annual Meetings. Maintenance of the Membership database used for communication and survey

Clive Butcher Contact (jcbutcher@gmail.com) - VT Webpage on VAC website. Fly Casting tuition/Introduction to fly fishing/fly tying. Newsletter (for communication to VT interested members)

Neil Roberts VAC FORUM – Trout discussions moderator

Chris Jennings * Contact: tel: 01442.265866 (early evening) (chrisjennings@btinternet.com) - Day and Guest Ticket Sales at Riverside Road and Bellows Mill

Richard Russell * Contact: tel: 01727.838178 (richardrussell_9@sky.com) - Support for Day and Guest Ticket Sales. Away Day organization. VAC Training Coach

Mal Shaw - Social Secretary

Peter Phillips - General Duties - Ford Lake, Bellows Mill bank maintenance

* **Fly Fishing Day and Guest permit seller**

On The Cover

Late January afternoon reflections across Riverside Road as coarse fishermen make the best of the last two weeks of their season. See Riverside Road below.

Fish Deliveries

As you may know we have for some years bought our trout from Bibury Trout Farm and I think you'll agree they are excellent quality. They are usually delivered in oxygenated tanks on a pick-up truck and trailer and in earlier years they were netted out and we carried the fish to various points around our lakes either in dustbins or nets. We quickly learned that a) gently introducing the fish to our water produced more mortalities than tipping them in from a foot or so above the water and b) spreading them around was pointless as within an hour they migrated to where they wanted to be wherever we put them. As we all know trout will naturally jump a foot or so in the air without harm but if we gently lower them in out of a net many just sink upside down and die. The shock of hitting the water seems to revive them.

The tanks Bibury deliver them in has a chute about four feet long attached and provided the trailer can be close enough to the water, the fish could be "shot" directly in. This is relatively easy at Riverside, so that is the way we now introduce them. Unfortunately we can't get vehicles close enough to Ford Lake at Bellows Mill so we have to rely on "netting" them in. The dist bin method seemed to produce stress in the fish and back ache for the carrier. Netting them is not much better (think of the weight of a net full of fish) but its quicker.

We have for some time toyed with the idea of some form of extended chute for Ford Lake but this has eluded us...until now.

You will remember the picture of Rae Borrás with his seven pounder from Ford Lake last month. Well, during a conversation with Rae, about the time of his "big'un", Rae kindly said he would donate a new builders rubble chute to hopefully do the job. It has arrived and when you read this, installation should be underway or complete. So, many thanks to Rae (and the installation team) for solving the problem. Pictures next month.

Verulam Trout Annual Meeting

39 members of VAC attended the Annual Meeting of Verulam Trout with apologies from 10 others; as usual a good turnout. The full minutes will be available in due course but in general there was nothing controversial to report. The main discussion centred on improving the autumn season fishing at Bellows Mill and the committee will be following up on suggestions regarding appropriate water weed and a renewed water analysis.

Because of increases in fish prices the committee proposed an increase in ticket prices for the coming year. As required by VAC rules these were put to the meeting and approved without question.

A table with flies and fly tying materials at bargain prices was available throughout the evening and was eagerly plundered by most. Another table held raffle prizes which again were sold to most present. The tables raised well in excess of £120 that will be ploughed back into our funds.

Verulam Trout Ticket Prices and Dates 2018/9

The following prices and dates were agreed at the 2018 Verulam Trout Annual Meeting.

Venue	Dates	Full Season	Half Season	Full Floating	Half Floating	Day	Off Season *
Riverside Road	09/02/18 to 19/04/18	£108 (1)	£62 (2)	£134 (3)	£72 (4)	£17	N/A
Bellows Mill Spring	22/02/18 to 20/06/18	£87	N/A	N/A	N/A	£17	£10
Bellows Mill Autumn	27/09/18 to 19/12/18	£87	N/A	N/A	N/A	£17	£10
Dual	As Above	£103 (5)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Guest	As Above	£25 (6) (Subject to VAC guest ticket price change at VAC AGM)					

* Off Season at Ford Lake, Bellows Mill is from 21/06/18 to 31/07/18 and 20/12/18 to 31/01/19 inclusive.

(1) One named day per week throughout the season.

(2) One named day per fortnight throughout the season.

(3) Any one day per week throughout the season.

(4) Any one day per fortnight throughout the season.

(5) A dual permit allows one named day per fortnight at Riverside Road (5 visits) plus any day at Bellows Mill (4 visits) at least two weeks apart throughout the season.

(6) Guest Tickets. One guest may accompany members to fish under the same rules.

Permit Availability

Applications for **season permits** should be made to **Barry Evans (Secretary)** Contact (VACTrout1@outlook.com)

Day Tickets and Guest Tickets are available from:-

Bob Ring tel: 07747795334 (bobring@btinternet.com)

Chris Jennings tel: 01442.265866 (early evening) (chrisjennings@btinternet.com)

Richard Russell tel: 01727.838178 (richardrussell_9@sky.com)

Barry Arthurs (Bellows Mill only) 0745 3264 662 evenings

Riverside Road 2018 Season Signing-In Hut

Although fitting out is underway there have been unavoidable delays in finishing the new Riverside Road meeting rooms during the winter meaning that our signing-in/tea hut refurbishment has not yet been embarked on.



This means that for the 2018 season at Riverside Road we will be repeating last years arrangements by using the modified old kitchen. It worked well last year and will be tidied up on the work party on 4th February ready for the opening day.

As usual the gate will have a combination padlock fitted with the access number printed on your season or day ticket. For safety reasons during the trout season only members with a valid trout permit are allowed on the fishery apart from members of the fishery management team carrying out essential work.

2018 Signing-in/Tea Hut

May I take this opportunity to again remind you that the **gate** must always be **locked after entering or leaving** even if you are **not** the last member to leave and the number must always be **scrambled** after locking; **not** just snapped shut.

Whilst on the subject of Riverside Road please be aware that the corner of the track as you come under the Alban Way bridge before the entrance to our fishery has recently been dug up. As ever the work coincided with the short period of monsoon like rain and made the inside of the corner somewhat boggy. Please keep to the outside of the bend to avoid getting stuck.

On a brighter note what winter rain we've had has raised the water level and the springs seem to be flowing again. Although more water would be welcome we have more than this time last year so, fingers crossed, we should enjoy better fishing this coming season.

Verulam Trout Fly Fishing Tuition

As in previous years we are again offering free tuition to anyone who feels they, or a friend, would like some guidance into the mysteries of fly fishing. Although aimed at complete beginners anyone who feels they would benefit from some advice on a particular problem they may have or just a general insight are welcome to come along. All tackle is provided but you can of course bring anything you have for advice as to its suitability.

The date for 2018 is :-

An Introduction to Fly-Fishing and Casting Clinic: Bellows Mill 10am to 2pm 18th February

Covers choice of equipment and techniques of fly-fishing (refreshments included) followed by a Casting Clinic

Any members (or friends) interested should contact [Clive Butcher](#)

Other Verulam Trout Fly Fishing 2018

Verulam Trout will also be arranging a few, fun, fly fishing competitions in aid of charity and BBQs to mark the end of the seasons on their waters.

Richard Russell will also be arranging **Away Days** on Saturdays throughout the year as follows:-

Saturday 12th May at Norton Fishery, Stapleford Tawney Trout Farm, Epping Lane, Stapleford Tawney, Essex RM4 1ST Contact No:01708688525

Full day 08:00 to dusk is £40 for 4 fish ticket. Various ticket options.

Saturday 9th June at Holbury Lakes Trout Fishery, Holbury Lane, Lockerley, Hampshire SO51 0JR Contact No:01794341619

Various tickets available. £43 for a 3 fish ticket.

Saturday 8th September at Rutland Water Fishing Lodge

Edith Weston, Oakham, Rutland. LE15 8HD

Telephone 01780 686441

Saturday 20th October at Thornwood Springs, Carpenters Arms Lane, Thornwood Epping, Essex CM16 6LR

£25 for a 3 fish (Rainbows) ticket. They do sell various tickets for the Blues, Browns & Tigers. The fishing was superb last year.

Richard puts a lot of effort into organising these events so please support him and try somewhere different. To book a place contact Richard on [01727.838178](tel:01727.838178) (richardrussell_9@sky.com)

verulam TROUT



SOCIAL EVENING

REMINDER....REMINDER....REMINDER RESERVE.....RESERVE.....RESERVE

So, when is it.....Thursday 15th March 2018

Where is it.....The Cricketers of Redbourn, East Common, Redbourn, St Albans AL3 7ND

At what time.....7.15pm for 7.30pm

The cost..... 3 course dinner is £26.50 per head

(The food is paid for on the night)

Why not join us for an evening of “chit-chat”, relaxed entertainment and good food.

Please reserve your places and order your menu choices [ASAP](#)

Contact Mal Shaw, either by phone 07836632929 or email mds_consult@yahoo.co.uk.

Don't forget, this is one of the few occasions, that we can invite and involve (if you want to !)
our “better halves” !!

Cheers

Mal

Starters

Winter Vegetable Soup with Rustic Cut Bread (V)

Wild Boar Terrine with Cornichons, Red Onion Marmalade, Lambs Lettuce and Toasted Ciabatta

Baked Camembert stuffed with Wild Mushrooms & Truffle Oil

with Toasted Crostini (V)

Warm Cranberry, Caramelised Red Onion and Goats Cheese Open Tart with (V) Balsamic Drizzle

Smoked Salmon with a Prawn, Avocado and Caper Mousse in a Filo Parcel served

with Cucumber and Dill

Mains

Tiger Prawn Linguine with Cherry Tomatoes, Olives, Capers, Garlic, Chilli and Parsley

Braised Feather Blade of Beef cooked in Red Wine with Fondant Potato

and Curly Kale

*Vegetable Wellington with Spinach, Curly Kale, Chick Peas, Pistachios, Chestnut (V) Mushrooms
and Butternut Squash with a Creamy Wild Mushroom sauce*

*Pork Fillet stuffed with Spice Apple and Pear with Sweet Potato Purée, Savoy Cabbage and Salt
Baked Celeriac*

*Pesto and Olive crusted Cod Loin with Vine Cherry Tomatoes, Tenderstem Broccoli, Crushed New
Potatoes and Chestnuts*

Desserts

Crème Brulée and Shortbread

Malteser Chocolate Brownie with Caramel sauce & Salted Caramel Ice Cream

A Selection of Ice-Creams

Snowball Cheesecake with Popping Candy and White Chocolate

Brioche Bread and Butter Pud with Orange Syrup and Vanilla Ice Cream