



January 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-coordinator 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

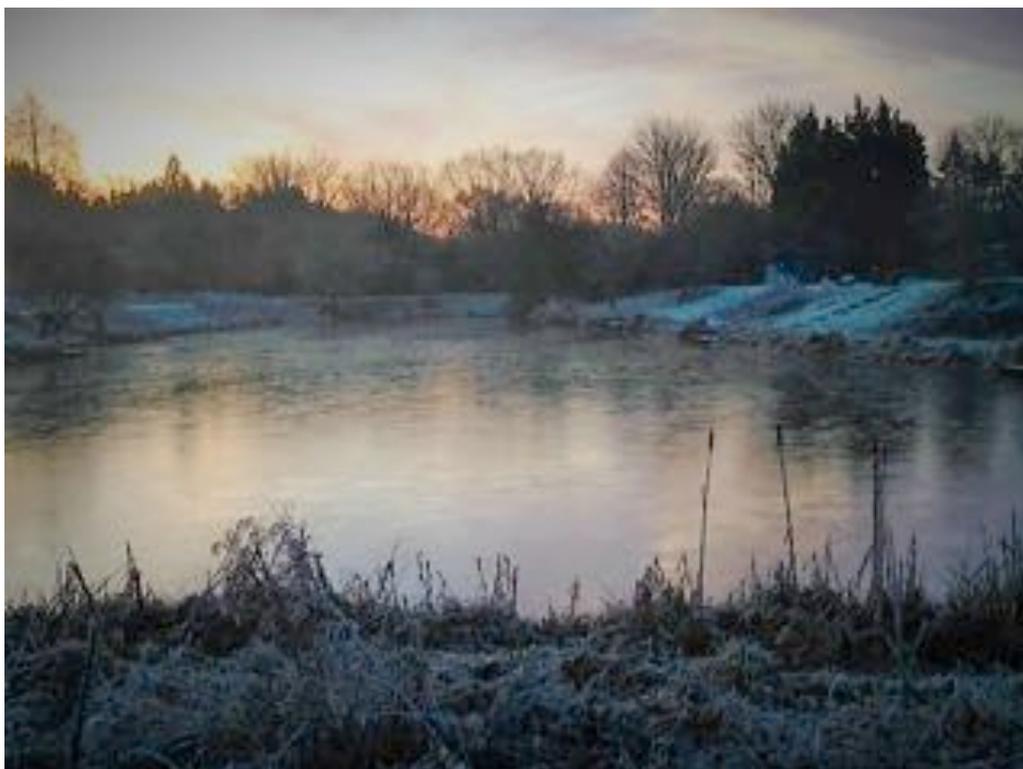
* **Fly Fishing Day and Guest permit seller**

On The Cover

Lets start the new year with a sparkle. Just as I sent out the December copy of VTN Rae Borrás sent me this picture of his magnificent 7lb rainbow he caught at Bellows Mill on 29th November. We think this is a record weight for Bellows. What's not included in the picture is the six and a half pounder that Rae also caught as part of his limit that day. Bellows Mill certainly came back with a bang after a disappointing start to the Autumn Season. A magnificent achievement Rae.

Bellows Mill Autumn Season

As the Autumn Season was about to end Rowland Elvidge thought he'd have a days fishing at Bellows Mill now the water has cooled. Well it had...too much; it was iced over.



The sunrise on a frozen Ford Lake - looks pretty though Rowland.

Previously Andy King saw Bob Ring and said that he hadn't caught a trout over two pounds all season. Bob had given Andy a Tequila Blob earlier in the season and as Bob left Andy was fishing it under an indicator. The result is in the photograph below; 5lb 14oz.



Andy King's beautiful rainbow

So once again the Autumn Season at Bellows Mill bounced back with an average catch of 2.6 in the last week of the season (including a couple of frozen days) and despite a disastrous start it ended with an average catch rate for the season of 1.8 fish per angler. We thought this was a record low but when Bob checked our records 2013 proved to have a similar figure. So whilst autumn 2017 was poor over all, we have been there before. On a (slightly) brighter note I wrote previously that week 4 was a record low with no fish being caught. This was not true. When re-checking the returns Bob found that Mark Jones did in fact catch one fish. Still a record low but well done to Mark for saving us from a blank week.

Later Garth Bridgwood emailed the following with a picture of his fish. Garth wrote:

Last Weds [20th] was the best day fishing I have had for a long time. Having caught two really nice fish I had a break and tried for the third after lunch. I had fish after fish but could not hold them, they just fought like the devil. I then decide to change the fly to a size 12 short wet fly and cast out. I gave a couple of pulls to straighten the leader, which then started to glide away, so I lifted the rod and wham. The fish went down the lake with the reel screaming and me trying to hang on. This happened three or four times before I could get it anywhere near the landing stage and finally to the net, by which time I was shaking like a jelly. I thought it was possible foul hooked in the dorsal fin, but the fly was firmly hooked in the scissors. It weight 4lbs 10 ozs and was in perfect condition, with big tail and fins. The last fish on the last day – wonderful.



Garths 4lb 10oz last day fish

So pleased you enjoyed it Garth. As you can see they were still coming out on the last "formal" day leaving plenty of fish still to be caught over the winter. No more stock will be added but £10 day tickets are still available until the end of January. What's stopping you?

Festive Fun(?) 2017

When I peered through the curtains at dawn on 27th the wind was blowing and there was rain on the window. Another peak after my shower and I was surprised to see the rain had turned to snow that was beginning to lay. It was a few inches deep through Kensworth and I wondered what Bison Hill would be like but all was well and I discovered fourteen other trout fishermen as mad as me at Bellows Mill. My reference to global warming last month seemed a bit out of place as we gathered to draw numbers for our starting platform but as they say "one snowman doesn't make a winter". (Do they say that?)

The wind driven snow was blowing straight down the lake from the north pole but after a couple of casts I looked up and someone down at the ford end was into a fish. Almost at once someone else down there had one on but I never had a touch. As we moved round, fish were being caught all over the lake including each side of me but my fly stayed untouched.

For the competition we have a rule that says if you catch a fish you have to stop fishing until the next whistle when you move to the next platform. At one point I looked around and there were only about four of the ten platforms occupied, with the others having a compulsory "rest".

I did eventually get a couple of fish but at the end the honours went to Chris Jennings who won the trophy for the heaviest bag with three fish weighing 8lbs 6ozs. Technically Chris also won the biggest fish prize but as we like to spread the prizes this went to Ted Brown for his fish of 4lb 6oz.

Whilst the results were being calculated we all partook of more mulled wine (we'd all been quietly having a snifter while we waited at the "virtual pegs") and hot dogs and mince pies and stolen cake etc, etc. Once again a most enjoyable outing thanks to Bob for his organising and cooking skills.



Above, Chris (almost) accepting his trophy for heaviest bag and right Ted Brown with his biggest fish prize (it was a bottle of whisky)

There is no truth in the rumour that Chris wants the heaviest fish prize next year.

(yes there is)



Inside Bentley

Did anyone see the Channel 4 programme about Bentley cars in December? Just in case you missed it and didn't get all you wanted for Christmas, you may like to start your next Christmas or birthday wish list now. Begin your list with a Bentley Bentayga. It's a rather nice 4x4 SUV. Well every fisherman needs one of those to get off the beaten track.



Naturally you'll need somewhere to hold your rods, reels and fly boxes....



....and of course your fly tying kit.



I know Rolls Royce said if you have to ask the price you can't afford it but the vulgar amongst you will want to know it anyway.

OK, the car starts at about £150,000 (that's the cooking model) but expect to pay around £250,000 for a civilised version.

And the fly fishing pack?

A snip at an extra £80,000*

Now, form an orderly queue!

*The promotional blurb for the Bentayga says the fly tying kit includes "a selection of cotton, hooks and feathers."

Cotton indeed! I would have had one had it been silk.

Another Reminder of Dates For Your Diary Verulam Trout Annual Meeting – 16th January 2018

We have the Annual Meeting of Verulam Trout to be held at 8.00pm on Tuesday 16th January 2018 at New Greens Residents Association Hall High Oaks, St Albans, AL3 6DL

This is the meeting where we announce the season dates and permit prices for the coming year and any other changes that the committee have in mind. Its also your chance to have a say or air your thoughts about Verulam Trout. The **agenda** is attached with this Trout News together with the minutes of the **2017 Annual Meeting** and the **Verulam Trout Survey Results**.



VERULAM TROUT SOCIAL EVENING

SAVE THE DATE.....SAVE THE DATE.....

Hello again fellow members.

It's that time of year again, when we announce the date of our annual TROUT SOCIAL EVENING

The Dinner is on Thursday 15th March 2018!!

Due to popular demand we are returning to: -

“The Cricketers of Redbourn”

Just to remind everyone and for people that didn't make it last year

It is a lovely old fashion pub that serves great food

There is a separate room for groups of our size, so we can feel free to chat and enjoy our dinner

This will also allow us to tell our favourite “fishing story” without annoying fellow diners!!!!

Also, as last year there will be something to “occupy” us in between courses

I will send out the actual menu, when it is available in the New Year.

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

To join us for an evening of “chit-chat”, relaxed entertainment and good food, just reserve you places by contacting Mal Shaw, either by phone 07836632929 or email mds_consult @yahoo.co.uk.

Don't forget, this is one of the few occasions, that you can invite your “better halves”

Please watch out for further updates in the next Newsletter

Cheers Mal