



Verulam Trout News

June 2016



Verulam Trout Committee and Co-Opts: Roles and Responsibilities

Bob Ring * (Chairman) Contact: tel: 01582.764442 or 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 (trout@verulam-angling.co.uk) **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

Our secretary, Barry Evans, with a fine brace of rainbows weighing 5lbs 7ozs and 5lbs 8ozs that he caught at Bellows Mill in mid April.

2016 Season Riverside Road

And the winner is....



Peter Phillips with the best fish of the 2016 Riverside Road Season with his magnificent rainbow of 6lbs 4ozs.

As reported last month Peter caught his fish on Super Saturday, the day of the big fish when six fish over four pounds were caught.

Peter also did well with his total catch for the season of 30 fish over the ten weeks joining Fred Edwards who also caught 30.

Both were just pipped to top spot by Mal Shaw and Chris Jennings who managed a maximum of 31 fish*; a limit on each of their visits. Under this years conditions a great achievement.

It may be of interest to add that overall we had 430 rods on the water therefore an average of 43 a week and they caught 847 fish, an average of 1.97 only very slightly down on our usual average of 2.0!

Of course limits aren't everything and for me one of this years highlights was the number of fish caught in the "new" part of Riverside opposite the hut.

Although I call it new, its been there around forty years but its newer than the rest of the fishery. In the past few trout seemed to be caught this side of the water but some good catches came from here this year.

*In case you're doing the arithmetic remember the limit was four fish for the last week of the season.

Bellows Mill Spring Season



On 12th May Jim Waller landed this terrific blue trout from Ford Lake weighing 5lbs 3ozs. As can be seen the fish was in superb condition and with a tail like that "boy did it go". Jim caught the fish on a white nomad.



Not to be outdone Nick Ring landed this 5lbs 12ozs rainbow a week later. Although the fishing dipped a bit during weeks five and six the average catch this spring has been remarkably good at 2.63 to mid May. Without those two lower weeks the average would have been much higher

I managed to pick the wrong day on my last visit and blanked. My excuse was "escaped" floating barley straw prevented me from reaching the fish but on closer examination I think it was last years dead sedge grass and reed mace that had been "displaced" by new growth. That's my excuse anyway.

Season permit holders must remember to date their visit on the "permit used" sheet as well as sign the returns sheet. Some members have already forgotten

and made more than their 8 (4 for dual) allocated visits. This will be remedied.

Recent Question Update

Last month I answered a question regarding guest permits at Bellows Mill. This in turn prompted another query about the price of a guest permit. I would appear that the price published on the Club website isn't totally clear in that it did not allow for a concessionary guest permit.

As also mentioned last month the definition of "concessionary" was changed at the Club AGM and from 16th June will follow that of the EA Licence. This means that from that date a guest who is a holder of an EA Concessionary Licence will pay £5 for the guest permit plus £16 for the trout day permit. A full adult guest will pay £8 plus £16. Since we finish at BM on 24th June this will probably only affect the Autumn Season.

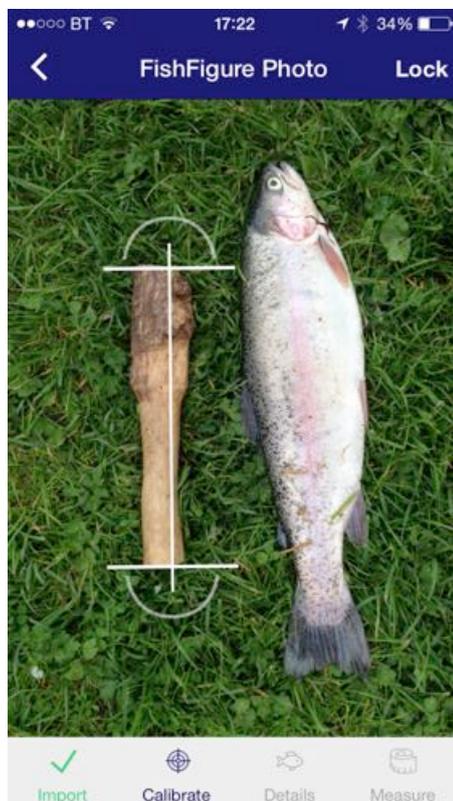
Kenneth Huitson

At our last committee meeting it came as quite a shock to hear of the death of Kenneth Huitson. Although Ken had only been a member for some three or four years he was always ready to help out at Open Days and was wholehearted when building the lodge at Bellows Mill. He attended all the autumn visits to the Itchen and was always ready to pass on his considerable knowledge about fishing in its many forms. His enthusiasm will be missed.

Useful App

Those of you who like to tinker with modern technology may like to try this one. It was sent to me by committee member Chris Jennings as a new way to "weigh" you catch. Briefly, you download the free app onto your mobile phone and after registering a known measurement against, say, your priest, your future catches can be photographed against the priest and the weight of the fish will be calculated. Chris says he tried it and it was quite accurate. (although I'm not sure it would be accepted by a record fish committee.) You can download the app from <http://www.fishfigure.com> for both Apple or Android operating systems.

Now I always carry a spring balance scales but they only go up to 7lbs so I need something bigger than that to make the app really useful. Who's in charge of stocking?



New Rod?

Chris also emailed me a cutting from his recent newspaper about (another?) revolutionary fishing rod material. This one's called graphene and is a spin-off from the development of the space shuttle heat shields and work carried out for Honda and McLaren's F1 world championship motor racing teams. It (the fibres I guess) is one million times thinner than a human hair and two hundred times stronger than steel. It is claimed that its strength and lightness adds yards to your casting ability.(don't they all) I "Googled" "graphene fishing rod" and although various graphene rods have been available in the USA since the middle of last year, as far as I can see, only Glasgow Angling Centre sell anything in the UK and then only a salmon fly rod.

The Glasgow Angling Centre website says "out of stock" so either they can't get the rods or, as the newspaper article says, they're unable to keep up with demand. If they are as good as they say this wouldn't be surprising except for one thing - they cost almost £1000 each. Now, where's my cheque book?

Summer Barbeque

A reminder that we have a summer BBQ to mark the end of the Spring Trout Season at Bellows Mill on 24th June starting at 7.00pm. Come along and bring friends and relations (and a garden chair or two) to see where you spend all your time fishing, especially if they're interested in joining us for the autumn season. As usual we don't charge but a grateful hat will be available for donations. So that we can gauge numbers please contact **Bob Ring** on **01582.764442** or **07747795334** (**bobring@btinternet.com**)

Away Days from Richard Russell

2016 Away Day 1 of 4 at Earith Trout Fishery on Saturday 14th May

We arrived at the fishery just before it opened officially at 08:30. Tackled up and paid for our permits at the lodge. Then assembled for coffee and bacon rolls before the 09:00 start of fishing. Four anglers opted for boats, four chose to fish from the banks and Bob and Nick Ring fished from their float tubes for the first few hours before their legs got tired with all the paddling they had to do fighting against the wind. Nick was especially successful, catching 8 trout of which he returned 7 to the lake. The water was very clear and it was possible to target the fish from the bank; but it was necessary to fish with extra-long leaders because of the clarity of the water. There was a fairly strong breeze that thankfully hid the many fly lines crashing on the water surface. Mal Shaw caught two small pike that snatched his lure and both within a matter of minutes from one another. Ken Woollard hooked, played and lost at least 4 trout at the net. We weighed in at 15:00 and the results can be seen below.

<u>Angler</u>	<u>Fish 1</u>	<u>Fish 2</u>	<u>Fish 3</u>	<u>Fish 4</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Mal Shaw	1lb 11oz				1lb 11oz
Andy King	1lb 12oz				1lb 12oz
Richard Russell	1lb 09oz	1lb 09oz			3lb 02oz
Bob Ring	C & R	C & R	C & R	C & R	
Nick Ring	2lb 3oz	C & R	C & R	C & R	2lb 03oz
Andy Fenn					
Rowland Elvidge	1lb 13oz				1lb 13oz
Ken Woollard	1lb 12oz				1lb 12oz
Martin Ede	1lb 09oz				1lb 09oz
John Eggle	2lb 03oz	1lb 14oz			4lb 01oz

Bob and Nick decided to opt for a catch and release ticket as they have already bulging freezers at home. John Eggle won the pool for the heaviest bag and Nick Ring the heaviest fish; both made donations to the British Heart Foundation with their winnings. After the weigh in we all returned to the lake for the last two hours before the fishery closed. I spoke to one of the Earith members who was just about to leave the fishery and he said he'd caught 21 trout on a damsel fly pointing to the opposite side of the fishery from where we were all fishing, but it meant facing the strong northerly wind.



The Earith crew L to R – Rowland Elvidge, Bob Ring, Martin Ede, Andy Fenn, John Eggle, Andy King, Ken Woollard, Nick Ring and Mal Shaw (and myself behind the camera lens).



Andy Fenn cradles a baby Pike with perfect markings before safely returning it to the water. Andy went on to land the biggest trout of the day, a rainbow of around three and a half pound (at least that's what it weighed in the pub a couple of hours later when we met up). He was playing a perch

that had taken his dropper, when suddenly the trout took his other fly and roared off in the other direction and the poor perch ended up almost water skiing behind the trout.

This was VAC Trout's third visit to Earith, we have always been made very welcome by the owners and members. The water has been crystal clear at every visit and I'm sure all those that attended would recommend this fishery.

Remember to contact **Richard Russell 01727.838178 (richardrussell_9@sky.com)** if you're interested in going to any of our remaining Away Days below.

Saturday 11th June :- Grafham Water

Saturday 10th September :- Eyebrook

Saturday 8th October :- Elinor

VAC Events

On the **18th June** VAC is again holding a demonstration of **Angling Skills at Smallford** from approximately 10am to 4pm. All forms of freshwater angling will be on display and we will be explaining fly fishing to those interested. This year we will be able to "wet a line" as we will be on the waterside. Refreshments will be available so do come along and also bring anyone thinking of having a go.

On **16th July** the Club will be having an **Open Day at Riverside Road** at times similar to above. This year the emphasis is on attracting younger members but not exclusively so all welcome. Again the refreshment van will be in attendance. At the moment we need a few volunteers to help out with our stand if only to "meet and greet" although the ability to explain the rudiments would help. If you can give a couple of hours or so please let **Bob Ring** know on **01582 764442 or 07747795334 (bobring@btinternet.com)**