

1. Things are continuing well regarding the building of platforms at Throckley Reigh. Following a site meeting with Brendan, Alan, Les, myself and Gillian the Warden with Chris Carter from the E.A. Les has held a follow up meeting with Gordon the peg installer. The next move is for him to provide a written quotation and then we will see just what we can afford. How much the E.A. contribute is paramount, but following their help with stockings of the Reigh, I am pretty confident they will help considerably to the amount the TAA will pay.

2. Northumbrian Water have announced that prices for day tickets at Whittle Dene will remain at £ 7, with a credit cruncher permit, allowing fishing from 2.30 p.m. costing £ 5. NW Fisheries Manager Don Coe has been instrumental in responding to the TAA's requests for providing more coarse fishing over the years, and this year a coarse challenge match will be held at Whittle Dene on August 25. There is also an eight-match spring series coarse competition at Whittle Dene this year between March 23 and June 8 and on November 16 there's the annual Derwent reservoir coarse competition. Copies of this year's angling guide which features information on all of the premier stocked trout reservoirs and coarse fishing at Whittle Dene lakes and at Derwent reservoir are available from 0845 155 0236 or by email: go.fishing@nwl.co.uk or via download from website www.nwl.co.uk/gofishing

3. The whole angling world is talking of the capture of a single north east fish, a massive 46 lb 11 oz pike, a mere 2 oz under the British Record taken by Scarborough piking expert Wyndon Coole, who actually caught the monster in 2011 when it weighed 45 lb 11 oz, from the Wykeham Fishery in North Yorkshire. News about the small syndicate ran by Jake Finnegan, the first man to catch the big pike at 40 lb can be had from 07515992981

4 Corbridge Parish Council have issued a Press Release warning anglers that they face prosecution if they continue to fish the two so called "free stretches." at each side of the Bridge. They stress that this water belongs to the Council for use by Corbridge residents only, and that there is no "public water" there.

5 The Angling trust have now concluded negotiations with the Government on the implementation of new measures to improve the protection of vulnerable fish stocks from predation from cormorants. The new measures will include the funding of three Fishery Management Advisors to be employed by the Trust from April to help angling clubs and fisheries co-ordinate applications for licences. In addition a commitment by the Government to review the existing national limit of culled cormorants from 2,000 to the emergency level of 3,000 in 2014/5 if the need can be demonstrated, along with the simplification of the licence application form are all points welcomed by anglers everywhere.

6. Next month sees the start of The Angel Spring League, a set of no less than 14 matches that gives the option to drop the worst five results. It starts on the 16th of March and runs through to the 15th of June, and names with £25.00 deposits are now being taken from 01914100449.

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